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Tuesday, 3 Feb., Washington; cloudy and cold. Did some writing in the forenoon. At the Farm Hands Club luncheon the attendance was small. Mr. Marquis~~f~~ summarized the last outlook report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which he said indicated a long period of low prices, that the farmers of the middle west were complaining of the high price of farm machinery, that many unemployed city men were migrating to the country and working for their board, that many farmers would probably curtail production, while others in their attempts to reduce costs for labor and machinery might increase acreage and production.

Wednesday, 4 Feb., Washington; clear and cold. Went to the old office and found some new desks and people in it. I saw Mr. Reese and asked if the Pan American Union had sent for the stacks of bulletins that were to be turned over to it. He said no and took me to a storage room to which the bulletins had been transferred. I telephoned the Pan American Union and was told that a truck and man were then on their way to get the bulletins. They came before I left. This completed my work and obligations for the department and I was now entirely free.

Returned to the house and did some more writing. An agent for an electric lighting system called and took up two hours of my time explaining its operation and advantages. The price was over \$700, to which had to be added the cost of installation and wiring of the house.

Thursday, 5 Feb., Washington; clear and warmer. After breakfast another agent of an electric lighting system called, but as the cost of his outfit was more than cost of installation by the Potomac Edison Company I told him definitely that I was not interested. Two young people called to look at the house. I reduced the asking rental rate from \$125 that I first thought the house should rent for to

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\$100, in order to facilitate its rental and avoid loss through its standing idle indefinitely. I notified the agent to reduce the asking price to \$100 and to make a special effort to rent the house without delay; also authorized the agent to list the house and lot for sale at \$21,000, or about \$3,000 less than its assessed value. Wrote to the appointment clerk of the department to ascertain whether my leave of absence without pay had been granted, and to the University of Florida expressing regret that I could not attend a meeting of the Institute of American Affairs. In the afternoon I went to the Gayety Theater and enjoyed the spectacle of the chorus of pretty young women. Wife asked me to take her to a restaurant for supper. Eunice called to return a book. Otis and Ethel came in at the same time. Wife accompanied them upstairs immediately. I had noticed that whenever ^{Eunice} ~~wife~~ appeared wife disappeared.

Friday, 6 Feb., Washington; clear and warmer. After breakfast I put at advertisement for one month for the rental of the house in the Washington Star.

In the afternoon an agent of a tractor company called and insisted on taking me out to the Belleview Farm near Washington to see a demonstration of a new tractor. The tractor was a monster and did good work under the guidance of an expert, but the great plow was broken when the tractor struck a small patch of frozen ground.

Saturday, 7 Feb., Washington; cloudy, dark, and snow in the afternoon. In the afternoon I drove out to Winworth, taking a nice beef steak and some apples with me. Mother not well, but sister a picture of health. By the time I reached Winworth it was snowing and sleeting. After supper the roof expert called and I paid him for the new roof at Lower Sunny Hill and agreed to let him put new roofs on Sunny Hill House and the Cricket House at the upper place.

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Spent a pleasant evening with mother and sister. Both ^{and} ~~said~~ they were quite willing to move up to Sunny Hill and keep house for me in the event that wife was determined to leave me. I appreciated this greatly because they were comfortably situated at Winworth.

Sunday, 8 Feb., Winworth; cloudy and occasional snow or rain. After breakfast I walked up to Lower Sunny Hill to inspect the new ^{roof} ~~off~~ and repairs to cellar door and veranda. Looked at the fields where Lewis had been plowing. Laddie, Eunice's big collie, followed me about.

We had a nice chicken dinner at Winworth. Lewis came up and put chains on the tires, made necessary by the coating ~~off~~ on the road. I reached home at 3 p.m. and went to bed for two hours, but could not sleep because of the noise in Miss Jenkins' apartment overhead.

Monday, 9 Feb., Washington; rainy and cold. The rain was very light, but perhaps it would mitigate the drouth somewhat. After breakfast I went to the Star office for a refund of an overcharge on the rental advertisement of the house. It amounted to ten dollars and was promptly paid. At the house I drafted a form of lease for Lower Sunny Hill. After luncheon I read one of Jacobs' Cape Cod stories. Listed all the improvements I wished to make at Sunny Hill and the equipment to be purchased and found that it made an estimated total of \$6,000, which made it clear that I would have to omit some of the items. Some people called to look at the house and I showed them over the lower portion. A representative of a biographical dictionary and encyclopedia called with a sketch of my career for correction. In the course of conversation he said that he had accumulated a fortune of \$450,000 in the Florida boom and lost it all because of the tornado and collapse in real estate

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values that followed.

Tuesday, 10 Feb., Washington; clear and cold. After breakfast a workman came to make some minor repairs about the house. Several people came to look at the house. I went to the bank and withdrew ~~fr~~ from the safety deposit box some bonds and asked the bank to sell them for me. This was to finance the farm. Then went to a place on 24th street to inquire about means of waterproofing concrete. The Cricket House cistern was lined with concrete but would not hold water. Then visited a number of places where used automobiles were for sale. I wanted a roadster in good condition, my idea being to have a box placed in the rear and use it for light hauling between farm and city.

Last night wife came into my bedroom with a cup of hot chocolate she had prepared and was friendly for the first time in six months. After she thought I was in good humor she ^{ai} ~~sd~~ she had something she wanted to tell me. Then she said she wanted to rent our house from me and let rooms. I said that the scheme did not appeal to me as ~~being~~ advantageous for either her or me. She asked me not to give her a definite answer then but to think it over. I respected her wishes, but did not like the proposal at all because if it meant anything it meant that all the furniture would remain in the house, Miss Jenkins and her sister would continue to occupy the two upper floors without paying rent; Otis and Ethel, Mr. Price and Thelma, would come to occupy other rooms; the hostile family would have possession of the house and the furniture, and I would be a mere outsider who would have the appearance of having deserted his wife and be without authority or power to rent or ~~sell~~ the property, and would have great difficulty in regaining possession; and I knew also that I could expect no income from the property while occupied by them because they would have difficulty in meeting the heating

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and lighting bills; Otis would never expect to pay his foster mother room rent, and when out of employment would expect her to continue to feed and clothe him and supply ~~g~~ him with spending money; and none of them would expect to pay me, the ogre, the intruder, the interloper, who had always so far paid their bills and all living expenses. No, the scheme did not appeal to me.

Today I told wife that because in my judgment it would be impossible for her to make a living renting rooms in the house I had decided it would be best for both her and me not to rent the house to her or to any of her friends. I simply had to have an income from some source and my only hope was to rent the house for a cash rental which she could not pay. I told her also that I would send her \$50 a month for her expenses as long as our money held out or until she found employment.

Had a letter from Mr. Lubin and a telephone call from some one at the capitol.

Wednesday, 11 Feb., Washington; clear and cold. I went to the department to see about my leave. The appointment clerk said that if Dr. Woods would certify that there was no position for me in the department I could make application for retirement. If granted I ~~can~~ could either withdraw the cash deductions from my ^a salary for many years or accept an annuity of \$770 a year, or if I waited until I was seventy I could then retire at \$1,200 a year. In the afternoon I painted the wainscoting in the basement that had been repaired. Made another round of automobile establishments looking for a cheap roadster. ~~Wife not so cheerful today.~~

Thursday, 12 Feb., Washington; clear and pleasant. The carpenter finished minor repairs to the house. I went to a place on Pennsylvania Avenue near the capitol to look at a Ford pickup of 1930 model that had been advertised for sale. It was in excellent

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condition and looked like new. I made an offer for the machine conditional on a trial run and the addition of a well fender and an extra tire, which the agent refused. However, he telephoned in the late afternoon that my offer was accepted. I at once went to the salesroom and the agent took me in the pickup out Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast as far as the District line and back. It was entirely satisfactory. The agent agreed to have the car ready by Saturday or Monday.

After I returned to the house two rival agents of competing tractor companies called. All these salesmen were very persistent and hard to get rid of short of insulting them and their capacity for absorbing insults was surprisingly great, which I attributed to both training and hard times. In this instance I got considerable amusement by stirring up a heated argument between the two competitors as to the respective merits and defects of their machines.

Had a telegram from Simon J. Lubin asking for the names of wheat organizations for the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

Wife returned after 6 p.m. saying that she and Mrs. Spedden, sister of Miss Jenkins, had inspected apartments on 25th Street near Pennsylvania Avenue that had five rooms and could be rented for \$65 a month. When I asked what she wanted with five rooms she explained that Mrs. Spedden, Miss Jenkins, wife, Otis and Ethel, should take the apartment, and that she, Mrs. Spedden, and Otis would each pay one-third of the rental. Also she said she had a letter from ^mEmma Burton saying that if she would not go to Sunny Hill and could not remain in the town house she was wellcome to occupy her two-room apartment at Randall Highlands that was unoccupied and furnished rent free. Obviously this last offer was most advantageous and I urged her to accept it, but it was clear that her mind was set on

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~~providing for both Otis and Miss Jenkins, the latter without income, generally incompetent, and too indolent to make any effort on her own account. It seemed never to occur to wife that Otis and Ethel might prefer to live alone and by themselves free from parental control or surveillance.~~

~~At night after I had gone to bed wife brought in a cup of hot cocoa. She was in her night robe and for the first time in seven months laid down beside me for awhile and tried to make herself agreeable. Unfortunately this conduct was in such marked contrast to what it had been for more than a year that I was suspicious. Perhaps the thought was unworthy of me and unjust to her that this sudden show of affection was to cozen me into making a better settlement when she left me.~~

Friday, 14 Feb., Washington; clear and cold. I went out on various errands. Wife had luncheon promptly at noon, which was very unusual. In the afternoon I drove out to Winworth, taking with me a steak, some oranges, and some candied sweet corn. The wind was blowing almost a gale; otherwise I should have walked up to Lower Sunny Hill. There were two deaths among the neighbors this week. Because of the gale I did not venture out but sat in the sitting room, light with bright sunshine, sipping homemade wine and smoking, and looking over the beautiful landscape. The little mule was looking much better. Sister said it was pathetic to see the way she ate and ate day after day and how grateful she was for her feed. We had a pleasant evening sitting about the fire and talking over old times. Mother's memories went back to the time when there ^{were} still Indians in Winnebago County, Illinois, and my sister and I could remember back for nearly sixty years. In all that time we had never been long separated. Father was the only one of our little family group whose chair was vacant.

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Friday, 14 Feb., Washington; clear and cold. I went out on various errands. Wife had luncheon promptly at noon, which was very unusual. In the afternoon I drove out to Winthrop, taking with me a stick, some oranges, and some canned sweet corn. The wind was blowing almost a gale; otherwise I should have walked up to Lower Gunny Hill. There were two deaths among the neighbors this week. Because of the rain I did not venture out but sat in the sitting room, light with bright sunshine, sipping homemade wine and smoking, and looking over the beautiful landscape. The little wife was looking much better. Sister said it was pathetic to see the way she ate and ate day after day and how grateful she was for her food. We had a pleasant evening sitting about the fire and talking over old times. Mother's memories went back to the time when she still lived in Winnebago County, Illinois, and my sister and I could never remember back for nearly sixty years. In all that time we had never been long separated. Father was the only one of our little family who was still in the world.

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Sunday, 15 Feb., Winworth; clear and cold, following the coldest night of the year. Had buckwheat pancakes, country ham, maple syrup, and coffee for breakfast. About 10 p'clock I walked up to the lower place. The house had had two coats of white paint and looked bright and attractive, making the other farm buildings look rather shabby. I went to the back field where I planned to plant locust trees and stepped off its dimensions so as to calculate the number of seedlings required.

After a nice chicken dinner I brought Charlie and Eunice back to Washington in the sedan. They left their car at Winworth for me to return with after I took the pickup out.

Monday, 16 Feb., Washington; cloudy and warmer. Bought a ton of coal, took the laundry around, fixed some boxes to take out to Winworth, and wrote some letters. The pickup was delivered just before noon. After luncheon just as I was about to leave Emma Burton came. She was in a hurry and so was I, and after greeting her and kissing her I left for Winworth. I stopped on the way out to put up the curtains and discovered there were no tools in the car. I drove on up to Sunny Hill and found Lewis working and Sister Nellie pruning roses. She rode down to Winworth with me. Elizabeth Blank and her little daughter, Marie, came soon after for a setting of eggs. Mrs. Blank ~~was~~ was of medium height, full figure, regular features, large eyes, full lips, a healthy color in her cheeks, white skin, a sweet expression, and a heavy crown of dark brown hair. There was something pathetic and Madonna like in her expression. A rather unusual country woman. Little Marie was too much embarrassed to talk. Sister Nellie gave her an orange and her eyes glistened with pleasure.

I spent the evening studying nursery catalogues and discussing plans with mother and sister. I drew up a memorandum of oral agree-

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ment with sister for operating my two farms, her farm, and mother's small place; also drafted a letter to Emma Burton explaining the curious situation that had arisen in our family for her information, but later decided the time had not yet come to say anything to her about it.

Tuesday, 17 Feb., Winworth; light showers and warmer. The man who was painting the house at Lower Sunny Hill came at breakfast time. He said he was nearly through and that it would cost him about ten dollars more than he had calculated. I made a partial payment and said I would pay the remainder when the work was finished.

On the return trip I stopped in Frederick and opened an account with a local bank with a deposit of \$3,000. Also purchased a set of tools to go with the pickup. I reached home before noon. Wife was away. Had luncheon at the Cosmos Club. Then took a nap. Wife returned after 6 p.m. and we had supper at a restaurant. At night for the second time wife laid down at my side for a few minutes.

Wednesday, 18 Feb., Washington; light showers and warm. Called at the salesroom where I had purchased the ^Sedan and asked for the necessary certificate to enable me to apply for a Maryland license. Then figured out nursery requirements, 1,000 seedling locusts and 1,100 evergreens for growing on. After a nap in the afternoon I went out and bought a World Almanac and one other book. Had several callers to look at the house and a number of telephone calls. Mr. Hermann called up and asked if I could help him in any way. He said his employment with the Pan American Union was for one month only and he had been unable to find anything since. After I had retired Thelma and her husband called and stayed until after

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11 p.m. He said he was waiting to take his employer home from the theater; ^{also that} ~~He said~~ he was often discouraged because his employer's wife was mentally unbalanced since she suffered an accident to her head and was extremely difficult to get along with. One of her manias was ordering him to disregard traffic regulations and speed past signals and threatening to have him discharged if he did not obey.

Thursday, 19, Feb., Washington; light showers and cold. After breakfast I went to the bank and drew out some money. Gave wife ten dollars for the weekly groceries, \$50 in cash for her moving expenses, and a check for \$50 to see her through until the first of April. She said that Miss Jenkins had made a deposit on the apartment they were to rent in partnership. I expressed the hope that they could arrange to move the last day of February so that I could remove whatever was left and have the house cleaned thoroughly, and the gas, electricity, and water turned off. I wrote orders for nursery stock and notified publishers of periodicals of the change in my postoffice address.

Friday, 20 Feb., Washington; cloudy and cold. After breakfast I walked to a tobacco shop at the corner of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue for some cigars. The work of demolishing the buildings on the triangle opposite the Willard Hotel was nearly completed. Albaugh's theater was about half down and looked like a section of an old Roman ruin. After luncheon I rode on a streetcar across the city to the salesrooms of Sears Roebuck and bought an outfit of work clothes for use at the farm. I noted many changes in the appearance of the ~~ext~~ eastern section of the city. The viaduct under the railway was the darkest and dirtiest of any I had seen in any city.

At the house I laid down for a nap but before I could fall asleep a halfwitted woman called on Miss Jenkins and instead of

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going up to her apartments she asked me to call her down. They sat in our sitting room for more than an hour chattering so that a nap in the house was impossible.

There was little that I could do until moving day and I found the suspense of waiting very trying, especially the uncertainty as to the date wife and Miss Jenkins would be prepared to move. So far neither of them had packed up a single thing or made the slightest preparation for moving.

Saturday, 21 Feb., Washington; cloudy and cold. I went through the catalogues of mail order houses and estimated that a water system, heating system, a sewage system, and a cooking range for the farm house would cost from \$500 to \$1,000. While eating luncheon wife asked for some music that had lainⁿ untouched for years on top of the piano and which I had packed away with books that had gone to Winworth. She said Otis wanted to play his violin and had asked for the music. I laughed at her and asked if she did not think that after going two years without playing a single note on the violin it was a little curious that Otis should suddenly become interested in the violin. "Why not be frank and simply say that you want Otis to have the violin, and be done with it without any subterfuge." There was no reply.

After luncheon I drove out to Winworth, taking with me a bundle of bulletins that had come to me from the department. On opening it I found it was simply fifty copies of one bulletin. I saw Leslie Masser and he readily agreed to let me have one room in Sunny Hill house in which to store furniture.

Sunday, 22 Feb., Winworth; fair and warmer. I walked up to Lower Sunny Hill by way of Baker's woodlot and was sorry I had not bought it when I had a chance. Noticed that the Lucy Whipp house was newly painted. Found the painter at work on the house

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Monday, 23 Feb., Washington; partly cloudy and cold. Last night read one of Jacobs' stories. Had a late luncheon. Listened to some radio music and dozed in my chair. When I awoke I found that wife was sitting near with her head resting on the back of a chair and sobbing. I tried to comfort her and get her to tell me what was the matter, but she would not. I suspected she was feeling the strain of the coming separation and of leaving the house in which we had lived together for nearly thirty years. However, she had made my life so unhappy the last two years and had been so unreasonable and so unapproachable, so hostile and so vindictive, that in spite of my strong impulse to take her in my arms I did not feel disposed to beg her to change her mind. Later I took a long nap after which we had a nice supper at a restaurant.

Tuesday, 24 Feb., Washington; clear, warm and pleasant. Wife and Ethel began packing up the things she was to take with her. I again told her to take anything she wanted. Ethel was very quiet and demure. Wife returned some photographs of me and a revolver that father had given me which she had hidden away for two years.

At the Farm Hands Club luncheon the principal subject of discussion was Federal seed grain loans. I was called on to say something and simply announced that as there seemed to be no longer any place for me in the Department of Agriculture I was about to go up to my mountain farm and play. Some one called out, "We'll all come up to see you." I extended a cordial invitation for them to visit me after spring opened. Mr. Chester Gray of the American Farm Bureau said that he had received a letter from Mr. Gilbert, Agricultural Commissioner of Massachusetts, asking about the world wheat conference at Rome and said he could not answer it. I volunteered to tell them what I knew about it, after which the chairman said I could consider myself delegated to represent the Farm Hands

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Club at Rome, whereupon the meeting came to an end.

Soon after reaching home a young man called from the place where I bought the pickup and said he was preparing to take a Civil Service examination for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and for the Department of Agriculture and he wanted my advice. I received two letters from Mr. Simon J. Lubin asking about the Rome wheat conference and that I send my answer by telegraph collect. I sent the answer by night letter tlegraph.

Wednesday, 25 Feb., Washington; clear and warm. I slept well and got up late. ~~As I did so I heard Miss Jenkins at our telephone saying to someone that "Mrs. Estabrook said we could stay here a week longer."~~ After luncheon I visited the National Museum and walked about looking at the exhibits until I was tired. Opposite the Museum the old Center Market building was being demolished. Wife and I took supper at a restaurant. All day I had been nearly overcome with a feeling of lassitude and sleepiness. Retired early.

Thursday, 26 Feb., Washington; clear and pleasant. Slept twelve hours without waking. After breakfast several people came to inspect the house. Telephoned the auction house to come for a bookcase that was too tall for any of the houses at Sunny Hill. In moving a small table I accidentally poked one of the legs into the glass door of a china closet and broke it. I went to a nearby hardware store for a new pane and soon repaired the damage. Wife was away all the forenoon, but spent the afternoon sorting out and packing things in boxes, and discarding a lot of trash that had accumulated. It made me wish, as I had often wished recently, that all my personal belongings were reduced to one or two suitcases and the wearing apparel I needed for traveling. Wife was in good humor and cheery. Only four more days of waiting and suspense.

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Saturday, 28 Feb., Washington; clear and pleasant. I returned some books to the Public Library. On the way back I bought a small barometer and a maximum and minimum thermometer for the farm. After luncheon I took a nap and then tied up some books that belonged to Otis, brought into the kitchen some barrels in which to pack crockery, and carried some boxes upstairs for wife to use in packing. Thelma came over to help pack the dishes and glassware. Wife and I had supper at a restaurant.

~~Sunday, 1 March, Washington; raining softly all day. Wife and I spent the day in packing up. Otis and Ethel came over in the afternoon and packed up his playthings, of which there was about a wagon load. We were all so busy that the time seemed short. In the evening Mr. Price and Thelma came over for awhile. Wife slept with me again.~~

Monday, 2 March, Washington; clear and pleasant. We ate breakfast at a restaurant. At 9 a.m. a van and four men came to move the things of wife and Miss Jenkins. Miss Jenkins was sent over to the apartment they had rented to receive the keys. There was a large quantity of plain junk that should have been discarded. I went with the men up to the four rooms occupied by Miss Jenkins. She had assured me that everything was ready. Instead, all sorts of things were scattered about the floor, a trunk was open and half filled, the floors were piled with clothing, books, pictures, cooking utensils, and plain dirt, all of which, except the dirt, had to be carried down three flights of stairs by armfulls. In the remaining rooms we had divided things between wife and I and this caused some confusion and close watching. However, everything was in the van by 11.30 a.m.. Shortly after noon the manager of the transfer company came and asked if his men could not begin packing my furniture in the van so as to get an early start for Frederick the next

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morning. I consented with the exception of a bed, two chairs, and a small table which I wished to use overnight so that I would not have to go to a hotel. I had expected wife to go to her apartment and begin setting it in order, but she proposed to spend the night with me. The men came at 2 p.m. and worked steadily until 6 p.m. They had difficulty in getting the piano and my flat topped desk through the doors. They took the loaded van to the warehouse for safe keeping over night. In the evening Otis and Ethel called and seemed rather embarrassed. On leaving Otis said "Good bye," and asked if he and Ethel might come up to Sunny Hill sometime. I said "Certainly, if you will behave like a gentleman and leave your gun behind; there is to be no more shooting or skylarking at Sunny Hill." Mr. Price and Thelma called and a little later Miss Jenkins to give me an old cane and a bronze ash receiver. It was rather inconvenient having company, with only two chairs and some boxes to sit on. Wife went out for some ice cream and our visitors sat around until nearly 11 p.m.

I was feeling in great good humor at having succeeded in dislodging Miss Jenkins who had paid no rent for several months and had been rather supercilious to me; also the wife's set ways of opposition and indifference were about to be diverted and never again would I have to live and work under the unsatisfactory conditions that had prevailed for so long. Already the attitude of wife, the two adopted children, and the neighbors was beginning to change

Tuesday, 3 March; Washington to Winworth; clear and cold. I was duly thankful for a clear day. We were up at 7 a.m. The bedding was folded up and put in large trunks. Small articles I carried out to the sedan. The van and four men came at 8.30 a.m. and we saw that everything was carried out. I gave the white man in charge a memorandum and a map showing how to reach Sunny Hill. It was

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agreed that we should meet in front of Hood College at 1 p.m. Wife and I then went out to a restaurant for breakfast. The plumber came to turn off the water and drain the pipes. I walked to the real/estate office and left the house key with my new address and instructions to try to rent the house without delay. Called at the bank and had my address changed on its records. It was after 10 o'clock when I returned to the house. Wife proposed to remain several hours to see to the removal of the trash in the back yard and oversee the cleaning of the rooms.

Then came the time of parting. She was quite pathetic in appearance and I was overcome with emotion at leaving her behind, for how long I could not know. I held her in my arms and kissed her. She said she wanted me to understand that she would live with me anywhere, no matter where or under what conditions, except at Sunny Hill, but she would not tell me the reason for that one important exception "because you must know." I assured her that I did not have the slightest suspicion of her reason and begged her to tell me what it was. She wept on my shoulder. I reminded her that she was exercising her own free will and independent choice, all contrary to my wishes, that I had simply kept my word not to say or do anything to dissuade her, and that I hoped she would realize her dream of independence. She was weeping again. I said that the time had come when I must leave, but I was not going far and would always be within reach and could be depended upon to respond to any call from her, and that perhaps sometime she would realize that I loved her more than all her friends combined. We kissed and parted.

As I climbed into the sedan and wiped the tears from my eyes I said to myself "Lordy, what fools we mortals be. But it seems that it just has to be."

agreed that we should meet in front of Wood College at 4 p.m.
 and I then went out to a restaurant for breakfast. The plan
 was to turn off the water and drain the pipes. I walked to the
 restaurant office and left the house key with my new address and
 instructions to try to get the house without delay. Called at the
 bank and had my address changed on the records. It was after 10
 o'clock when I returned to the house. The house was empty and
 all hours to see to the removal of the trash in the back yard and
 oversee the cleaning of the rooms.

Then came the time of parting. She was quite pathetic in ex-
 perience and I was overcome with emotion at leaving her behind. For
 now long I could not know. I held her in my arms and kissed her.
 She said she wanted me to understand that she would live with me
 anywhere, no matter where or under what conditions, except at
 Hill, but she would not tell me the reason for that one important
 exception "because you must know." I assured her that I did not
 have the slightest suspicion of her reason and begged her to tell me
 what it was. She kept on my shoulder. I reminded her that she was
 exercising her own free will and independent choice. All contrary
 to my wishes, that I had already kept my word not to say or sug-
 gest to dissuade her, and that I hoped she would realize her dream
 of independence. She was weeping again. I said that the time had
 come when I must leave, but I was not going far and would always be
 within reach and could be depended upon to respond to any call from
 her. And that perhaps sometime she would realize that I loved her
 more than all her friends combined. We kissed and parted.
 As I climbed into the moon and wind the tears from my
 eyes I said to myself "There, what fools we mortals be. But it
 seems that it must have been so."

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I had a quick run to Frederick but saw nothing of the van en route. At Sunny Hill Lewis helped unload the things I had brought in the sedan. Had a nice luncheon with mother and sister at Winworth.

At 12.45 p.m. I ~~we~~ drove to Hood College and waited for the man. It did not appear until 1.45 p.m. We stopped to unload most of the things ~~at~~ at the schoolhouse and then proceeded to Sunny Hill with a few of the heavier articles. About half way up the hill from the public road to the entrance was a wet spot where the van stuck and could ~~be~~ proceed no further. There was nothing to do but back down to the public road and take the things to the schoolhouse until the road could be repaired. Some of the furniture was badly marred.

After the men left I began to arrange some things in the room assigned to me at Winworth because I would have to live with mother and sister until Sunny Hill house was vacated and repaired. Sister telephoned for Reginald Biser to ~~came~~ come down in the evening and connect up my small radio. I spent the evening reading mail and writing letters. With a good electric light, homemade wine, cigars to smoke, I was very comfortable and tremendously relieved to be out in the country.

(Wife, 3 ~~March~~, Winworth, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill, R. 5, Frederick, Md.

3 March 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"Just a line to let you know that I got through alright. Am somewhat tired and know that you are even more so because you have worked harder than I, and we have both been under a considerable strain. Knowing this I have felt that you have passed through it all wonderfully well. My only hope is that you will succeed in getting suitable employment and realize your great desire to be selfsupporting and independent. I only wish that I might help you.

"Did you see my metal-headed cane--my old stand-by that has gone everywhere that I have gone in the last forty years? I left it standing by the radiator in the front hall and did not miss it until I arrived here. Hope you rescued it for me.

"I reached here before noon, had luncheon, unloaded my things, and went to town and waited at Hood College nearly an hour before the van showed up. It came alright out as far as the schoolhouse lot where it stuck, but ~~g~~ finally got in. We unloaded most everything but the piano and a few other things and then tried for Sunny Hill. It passed the mailbox ravine and got only about one-fourth up and stalled, had to back out to the mailbox and return to the schoolhouse. Everything is well placed in the dry, airy schoolroom, and the better pieces are covered with rugs.

"We had Reginald Biser come down in the evening and set up the little radio and it is doing nicely. A good rain fell Sunday and the land is soft and muddy. The buds on the trees are well along.

"Hope you got your bed set up and will have a good night's rest. Hope also that the electric light, gas and telephone men came as they promised, and that the colored man with the cart came. I feel a little worried about you, but hope that you will soon get straightened ~~Y~~ out. I will try to come in within the next week. With love,

"Daddy."

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4421

Wednesday, 4 March, Winworth; clear and rather cool. Frost in the morning. After breakfast I walked up to Sunny Hill and measured the distance between the peony rows to see if a tractor could be used between them. Measured an empty room in Sunny Hill House and considered the feasibility of constructing a closet in one end for clothing. At the Whippoorwill House I measured the fireplace which I intended to remodel. Inquired about the water situation which had been serious for many months because of the prolonged drouth. Mrs. Masser said there was about three feet of water in the large well and that the water in the small cistern from the new metal roof was good. The cistern at the Cricket House was empty.

Walking down the mountain road I counted the panels in order to estimate the quantity of barbed wire that would be necessary to protect the fence from breaking when people climbed over it instead of going through the gates.

After luncheon I drove to Frederick with mother and sister, taking fifteen minutes from the house to the parking place. I called at the telephone office to inquire about installing a private telephone instead of the party line at Sunny Hill House. I was informed that the first cost would be \$250 and that the monthly charge thereafter would be \$14.75. This I considered prohibitive for farm service. Left an order at the Frederick Post for the printing of a supply of letterheads, envelopes, bills, labels, and ~~ex~~ cards. At the United Cigar Store I arranged for a steady supply of the little cigars I was accustomed to smoking.

After a short nap in the afternoon I was quite busy with a number of things until supper time. After supper the painter called for his pay. Two men called to ~~ex~~ estimate the cost of digging a cistern at Lower Sunny Hill. They said it would cost more than \$100 and I decided to buy a tank instead.

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4422

Thursday, 5 March, Winworth; clear and cool. After breakfast took some things from the schoolhouse in the pickup to Sunny Hill. Milton Kline, a local bricklayer, came and after examining the fireplace he agreed to remodel it in accordance with my plans for \$17, I to furnish the material. Talked with Lewis Blank about our labor agreement for the coming year beginning with April first. I told him I had decided not to employ any one by the year or by the ~~month~~ month but would pay two dollars a day of ten hours for days actually worked. He agreed readily enough to this arrangement.

In the afternoon I took Lewis to the Lower Place and sister to the upper place, and brought some plank back to the lower place and then to Winworth to change my clothes. While there a woman came out to see about renting the lower place. I was not favorably impressed by her statement that she was a widow and had three daughters and the four of them made a living at sewing and washing. Then I drove to town and left an order for brick and other materials for the chimney. I called at a factory that made tanks and siloes. The lady bookkeeper was very pleasant and said she remembered hearing me speak at the Kiwanis Club and was much pleased with it; she was president of the Zonta Club and asked me if I would address her club. The manager came in and showed me over the plant. Stopped at a hardware store for some things.

~~After returning to~~ ^{at} Winworth I brought in some wood and wrote up my diary. After supper a carpenter called to see about the kitchen addition and bathroom and he agreed to come up Sunday and look the place over. I was impressed by the progress of this country man. Ten years or more ago he was without education, a big rough looking man who married a country girl in the neighborhood, bought two acres of woodland opposite her father's place, cleared the ground and with the logs built a cabin, put the ground in cultivation,

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4423

worked for day wages about the neighborhood, and saved a little money. All this he had done with his own hands. Gradually he improved the little cabin until it was a neat cottage which later he sold to my mother. Then he went to Frederick and found employment as a carpenter and ~~had~~ ^{became} a building contractor. He had adopted two children and was much concerned because one of them was badly injured in an automobile accident. He was a big kindly man with a lot of common sense, worth a roomfull of government clerks who did as little as they could, drew big salaries, and did not keep out of debt or save anything.

Friday, 6 March, Winworth; clear and warmer. Left at 7.30 a.m. and drove through the morning sunshine to Washington. Saw groups of children gathering by the roadside waiting for the buses to take them to the town consolidated schools. On reaching L and 17th Streets it did not occur to me to put up my car in my own garage and I left it with a service station across the street for which I had to pay a charge of 25 cents.

I walked around to the front of the house ^{and} ~~I~~ saw that the front door was open. Inside was a man who had come to disconnect the telephone. I went over the house and found everything was out and the backyard had been cleaned. I went to the Cosmos Club to wash up and then to the Department of Agriculture to greet Dr. Woods and leave my new address. Then I rode on a street car out to 25th Street and ~~all~~ called at the apartment taken by my wife and Miss Jenkins. It was on the second floor of a narrow house facing east. Ethel let me in and took me to a little front room where wife was arranging some things. She seemed glad to see me and looked older and thinner and much worried. She showed me over the place. Her room was a tiny one with a single window overlooking a backyard. It had very little furniture in it. As I had suspected most

(1931, March, Washington)

E--4424

of the furniture wife had taken with her was in the larger rooms fitted up for Otis and Ethel. It was about noon and wife asked Ethel to warm up a stew and make coffee and we had luncheon together. She said it made her homesick. Her mouth quivered and her face broke. I petted her and said "Well, dear, you must never forget that it was your own free choice, your own will, and your own way." I had a strong desire to ask her to come with me to Sunny Hill, but refrained as ^{there} ~~their~~ rose before me the recollection of her recent statement that she would never go to Sunny Hill and all the difficulties she had raised between us. Much of that trouble had been due to her idea that she could at any time find agreeable employment at a good salary and be independent, and it seemed to me that the only possible way to cure her of that idea was to let her try it. The principal object of my trip to Washington was to recover my bois de'arc cane which I had left behind in the excitement of ~~art~~ parting with wife. She had found it and left ^{it} ~~at~~ the next house. I recovered the cane and reached Frederick shortly after 1 p.m. I inquired about having a top made for the pickup and bought some tools and a bridle for the little mule.

I reached Winworth about 3 p.m.. After sitting with mother a few minutes I went on up to Lower Sunny Hill where sister and a neighbor woman were papering rooms in the house. Lewis and a helper were hauling hay from the barn down to Winworth. In the forenoon they had taken a walnut log to a lumber yard to have a thick slab sawn from it for a mantel piece in the Whippoorwill House. In the mail was a letter from the real/estate firm saying they had an offer to rent the town house for \$1,000 a year, with option for renewal, and they asked for a reply by telephone. This was one third less than I had at first supposed was a fair rental, but I decided to accept it because real/estate values had declined more than one third

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4425

although taxes remained the same, in this case \$400 a year, and because I did not like the idea of the house remaining vacant for many months, perhaps a year, as I had seen so many houses do in Washington. Some income was better than no income, and I had seen a house in the same row remain vacant for more than two years just because the proprietor would not reduce the rental to meet competition.

Saturday, 7 March, Winworth; clear and cold. Had Lewis and a helper get out some locust posts and make a foundation for the water tank at the kitchen door at the lower place. I went up later and marked off the place where the foundation should go. Then drove to town for some more paste for the paper hangers. Then to the upper place in time to see a truck unload material for the chimney at the Whippoorwill House. Took a look at the field of narcissi which were just pushing through the ground. Looked into the Cricket House and put the shot gun together. At Winworth I telephoned the factory to make the tank for the lower place. Also telephoned the agents at Washington to go ahead with the lease of the town house.

After luncheon and a short nap I brought out the little mule, saddled her, and rode up to Lower Sunny Hill. The men were doing a good job with the foundation for the tank. Then I rode up the rocky path through the woods to the upper place. I put the mule in the barn and cleaned up some brush near the wood pile and in the orchard.

It became very cold in the afternoon. We had a nice supper and spent a pleasant evening together listening to the radio.

Sunday, 8 March, Winworth; flurries of snow in the forenoon. Eunice and Charllie spent the night with us and left in the afternoon. Eunice seemed greatly to enjoy a day in the country away from the exacting duties of saleslady in a jewelry shop in Washington.

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4426

Charlie always took advantage of the opportunity to clean and polish his car. I drove up to Sunny Hill after breakfast and made a fire in the Cricket House. Mr. Morningstar, the carpenter, came up and measured the dimensions of the kitchen, bathroom, and closet, and interior stairway to the cellar, and for alterations in the Whip-poorwill House. After he left I swept out the Cricket House and played some phonograph records. A

At Winworth we had a nice chicken dinner, after which Eunice and Charlie played duets on the violin and piano. After they left we had some more good music over the little radio.

Monday, 9 March, Winworth; clear, cool, high wind, and flurries of snow. Telephoned the roof man at Walkersville who assured me that the Cricket House roof would be finished in a day or two. Telephoned the county commissioners and asked them to come out and look at my road. Also called up the Maryland police station and was informed I should get a Maryland license for my cars immediately. Lewis went to town for the walnut lumber made from a tree on our place that had blown down some years previously. Had him take the walnut slab to a planing mill to be dressed; also bring out the tank for the lower place. Then I took Sister Nellie with me to Frederick and we both did some shopping. Left the saddle to be repaired and bought a halter and a collar for the mule. Also bought some fertilizer and grass seed.

Had a nice oyster stew for luncheon. After luncheon took sister and a helper up to Sunny Hill to do some transplanting. Two men from the Potomac Edison Company came out and together we went over the place. They took measurements and promised to submit an estimate. Then I took a survey of the tools and implements. Many were missing. A dump cart had been taken to pieces and some of the parts were gone. I cut and piled some brush at the upper end of one of the orchards.

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4427

With the helper I took a load of locust posts and left them at weak places in the fence for repairs. At 4 o'clock I took sister to Winworth and then drove to the home of Milton Blank and his wife Elizabeth to ask her to help sister the following day.

Tuesday, 10 March, Winworth; clear and cold. After breakfast I drove to the police station on the Braddock pike and made application for Maryland licenses, and from there to a laundry on West Patrick Street. The elderly man in charge recognized my name and said that formerly he was a crop reporter of the Bureau of Crop Estimates and he prized highly a nice letter I had written him as chief of that bureau. Then to the newspaper office to see about the stationery I had ordered, and to the bank for some money, to a hardware store for a new axe, and to another hardware store where I bought a 32 caliber Winchester repeating rifle with which to shoot at hawks, and to a plumbing establishment for some pipe and a faucet for the tank, and to have made a square pan for use as a rain gauge. Lewis brought out the walnut slab for the mantel and I was much pleased with it.

The helper spent the day setting posts and strengthening the fences. Elizabeth did the washing. She was a husky woman and wore a thin dress but insisted on doing the washing out doors although the temperature was below freezing and did not seem to mind it. In the afternoon sister and Elizabeth went up to the lower place to paint the interior woodwork of the house. I went up later. At the entrance to the private road from the public road a car was parked with a young man and woman in the front seat locked in tight embrace. I went into the house to see how the women were getting along with the painting and then up the road to see how the helper was progressing with the fence. At the entrance to the upper

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4428

road was another car with a couple in it also locked in tight embrace. I was glad to see these signs of spring. I continued my walk through the woods to Observatory Hill where I stopped to pile some brush. At the Whippoorwill I stopped to inspect the walnut slab for the mantelpiece. It was a fine piece of wood and more massive than I had expected. I changed my shoes in the Cricket House and began piling brush near the poultry house. While there three men came out from the Potomac Edison Company to survey the line for the poles. They proposed to set a pole in front of the garage and one in the Cricket House lawn. I told them that poles might look pretty to them but not to other people and they would have to set them where I designated or not at all. When I indicated where the poles might go they agreed that it would answer quite as well as their first choice.

After I returned to Winworth a representative of a rival electric company called and I took him up to Sunny Hill to look over the ground. He ~~asked~~ asked me not to sign a contract with the Potomac Edison people until he had an opportunity to submit a proposal. He was sure he could save me some money.

After supper I took mother and sister to visit Mr. and Mrs. Tobe Miss in Shookstown. We were all crowded into a small room with a large enameled heater, a table, many chairs, and a large radio receiving set. A neighbor and four children also came in to hear the radio which was still a novelty. Mrs. Miss started the instrument and set it too loud so that it boomed, sputtered, and shrieked in a way that was very painful to me. Throughout the entertainment she talked steadily. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miss had lived in the neighborhood all their lives, had worked hard at farming and trucking, had economized and saved, and now in their old age were wise enough to surround themselves with some of the luxuries in

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4429

which they took great pride and pleasure, such as the heater, the radio, a phonograph, a large ~~and~~ modern cooking range, electric lights, and an automobile. While this couple would have been counted poor in a city ~~but~~ here they were regarded as rich because of these possessions by their poorer neighbors. Mr. Miss was a leader in the little community and among his neighbors was relatively more important than most city men in their communities. In the course of conversation we tried to guess each others ages and it turned out that he ~~was~~ 62 in February and I the same age in March, a difference of only one month, but a lifetime of manual labor had made him look much older. We had difficulty in breaking away from them because their idea of politeness was to insist on our remaining longer.

Wednesday, 11 March, Winworth; clear and cold. I went to town for sizing for some of the walls at Lower Sunny Hill which I took up immediately. At the upper place I found the bricklayer and a helper at work on the chimney. At the lower place I put a faucet and pipe in the new tank. In the afternoon I took Sister Nellie and Elizabet to the Cricket House the interior of which they were to paint with a preparation for plastered walls. I was kept busy getting things for the workmen on the chimney. Mr. Morningstar came out with his estimate for the additions and alterations in Sunny Hill House and the Whippoorwill House. We finally agreed upon \$460, he to furnish everything. Then a representative of a plumbing establishment came out and I agreed to buy a sceptic ~~ink~~ tank and the necessary pipe from him, the excavation and trenches to be dug by my men. Then took a scout around the ^efaces to see how the helper was progressing. Had Lewis cleaning out the Whippoorwill preparatory to alterations. In the evening I estimated the wall paper requirements for Sunny Hill House.

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4430

Thursday, 12 March, Winworth; clear and very cold. After breakfast I took sister, Elizabeth, and a helper to Sunny Hill to continue painting and papering and laid out work for Lewis and his ~~his~~ helper. Then to town for materials. After luncheon I took the things up to Sunny Hill. Lewis and the helper complained that the digging iron was too blunt. I took it down to the blacksmith in Shookstown to be sharpened and borrowed one from him. The mason wanted a hacksaw to cut an iron rod to go in the chimney. I went ~~ø~~ down to Winworth but could not find the saw. Returned and suggested that the rod could be cut with a cold chisel, which was done. The carpenter and a helper began work on one of the rooms in the Whip-poorwill.

Returning to Winworth late in the afternoon I met three of the county commissioners who had come out to look at my road. They took me in their car and together we went up to Sunny Hill and they saw for themselves the condition of the road from the mail box to the entrance, a distance of about four hundred yards. It was a dirt road of clay and many stones, had very steep grades, and had not been worked for years. There was no provision for drainage and it was very rough. Before they left the commissions agreed that the road would have to be fixed and asked me to send in a good man who could supervise the work the following Saturday morning. That evening I asked Lewis if he could find the men and teams and supervise the road work. He seemed greatly pleased at the prospect.

While I was bringing in some wood at Winworth a large farmer-looking man called and said he wanted to rent the house and garden at Lower Sunny Hill. His name was Phelps and he said he had been employed for two years by Mr. Baker, the banker, and was in charge of a large farm at Havre de Grace. As a reference he gave the name

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4431

of Mr. Willard, manager of Mr. Baker's properties, in Frederick. I did not like the appearance of Mr. Phelps, but agreed to meet him at the bank the following morning.

We had a nice supper of hash, cabbage, and onions, hot biscuits^t and gooseberry jam, for supper. After supper I sipped wine, smoked, and listened to the radio. What a contrast, I thought, this is to my life the last year or two. Instead of uncertainty as to the future and hostility and enmity in my own house I was enjoying the affectionate companionship of mother and sister and an active life with certain objectives to keep me interested.

Friday, 13 March, Winworth; clear and warmer. On the way up to Sunny Hill with some furniture from the schoolhouse I stopped to speak to Mrs. Lucy Whipp and her daughter ^{da} ~~Off~~. Lucy said her son had picked up ^w ~~to~~ chairs in the road near her house the day before and had brought them into the house. They had ~~had~~ fallen off the pickup at a rough place in the road and the noise of the engine prevented me from hearing them fall.

At Sunny Hill I found the workmen all busy and making good progress. I took Lewis down to step off the road and to estimate the number of men and teams he could use to advantage. I made a fire in the Cricket House to dry out the newly painted walls and started to clean out the tool house.

After luncheon I took mother to town and went to the bank to meet Mr. Phelps, applicant for Lower Sunny Hill House. I stepped into the bank and not seeing him I took up my station at the entrance where I waited for fifteen minutes and then left. Then to the plumbing company and left an order for the pipe for the sceptic tank and system. The manger said the tank had been ordered and would be delivered the following week. Made some purchases and reached Winworth at 3 p.m. Learned that Mr. Phelps had called up

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4432

twice. Then a representative of the State forestry service called. We went up to Sunny Hill together and inspected the pine trees I had planted years before. He said that the trees that had died could not compete with the surrounding trees and advised clearing away all ~~growth~~ growth from around the living white pines. At the scrub pine grove he expressed a desire to do some experimental work in thinning and I told him I would welcome the experiment. He seemed to be enjoying himself and in no mood to leave. I took him into the Cricket House and he talked for more than an hour. At 5 p.m. he still seemed loth to leave. Sister said that during my absence two men were out to see about electric light fixtures.

After supper Mr. Phelps and his wife, accompanied by Mr. Willard of the bank, came out. Mr. Phelps was coarse and evidently had been drinking. His wife was a pretty little ~~and very~~ demure looking woman. Mr. Willard was a man of imposing and prosperous appearance of the promoter type. It was evident that Phelps wanted the place very much. Mr. Willard vouched for the couple and assured me that they would make good tenants and that Mr. Phelps had sufficient money to pay the rent even though he was not successful in finding local work. Upon this assurance I agreed to let them have the place and they signed the form of lease I had prepared and paid a month's rent in advance. Altogether it was a busy day for me.

Saturday, 14 March, Winworth; clear and pleasant. In the morning I took sister and X Lewis to town, she to do some shopping and he to see the county commissioners. The commissioners agreed to reimburse us up to one hundred dollars. At Sunny Hill I found that the chimney was finished and the carpenters were making good progress. Leslie Masser and family were moving out of Sunny Hill

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4433

House. After luncheon I brought up Sister Nellie and the wall paper that had been received from a mail order house. She spent the afternoon pruning shrubs. I telephoned the brickyard for materials for the foundation for the addition to Sunny Hill House.

While I was working about the place Mollie, the little mule that Lewis had ridden up and turned loose in the barn lot, escaped and trotted down the drive. Several times I caught up with her but each time she galloped off like a colt. I followed her in the pickup down the road until she turned in at Winworth and went into the barn lot there.

For the fourth time that day I drove up to Sunny Hill. It was a lovely day and good progress was made with the house and with the digging of the trench system. At the close of the day I was very tired from so much running about and lifting and carrying so many things.

Sunday, 15 March, Winworth; cloudy, light rain and snow, and cold. After breakfast I took mother up to Sunny Hill. The shrubs and evergreens were beautiful with a light covering of snow. Returning to Winworth I polished the Winchester rifle and some canes with an oiled rag. Sister prepared a nice chicken dinner. Had a nap in the afternoon. After supper we sat about the fire, listened to the radio, and read.

(Wife, 15 March, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill, R.5, Frederick, Md.,

15 March 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"Your nice letter of the 9th came the 11th and I was glad to know that you had arranged your 'nest' to your satisfaction and can now enjoy it in comfort. Surely, I wish the good little fairies may bring you all sorts of good luck in your 'business' although I do not know what that is and doubt if you do, but whatever it is or may be I hope it will be a joy to you and compensate you, at least in your own estimation, for what you gave up in your voluntary separation from me.

"As for myself, life at Sunny Hill and Winworth has been so strenuous, so full of variety and incident, and there have been so many calls and callers that I have had no time or leisure for connected thought and naturally I am very tired when the chickens go to roost.

"One afternoon this week the State Forester from Cumberland came out and together we inspected the trees of Sunny Hill. He thinks some of the white pines have made wonderful growth and he plans to carry on some cooperative experimental work in the old 'Pine Hall' patch. I had the Road Commissioners out one afternoon and yesterday they authorized Lewis to boss the job of making a road from the mailbox to Sunny Hill gate. Lewis is all excited and plans to start Tuesday, weather permitting. Lower Sunny Hill House has been put in order and is already rented beginning April 1.

"We visited Tobe and Mary Miss one evening. In their little two-by-four sitting room is a big porcelain heater, an Atwater-Kent radio, and a lot of chairs and other furniture. In the kitchen adjoining they have a wonderful cooking range with all sorts of conveniences. Of course, they have electricity. Both look older and have changed for the better during the last ten years. He has a fine head, is shrewd and quiet

and I like him. She is a character of a distinctive type and we had trouble in escaping her excessive hospitality when it came time to leave. She let us go only after I consented to let her fill my pockets with apples. Grandma Masser is a little shorter, a little more bent, and a little more voluble than she was when I last saw her.

"Molly Mula, from being a mere fuzzy brown disconsolate skeletonish shadow is rounding out and becoming quite perky and independent, thank you. I rode her up to Sunny Hill and through the woods one afternoon, but was careful, thinking she was so old and feeble she might take a tumble. She picked her way through the rocks very nicely. Yesterday Lewis rode her up and put her in the barn lot. She got out and started down the road towards the mailbox at a brisk gallop. I chased her in the pickup. Caught up with her at the McKenzie place. When she saw me she kicked up her heels and started down the road past the Biser place like a streak with head and tail up and dashed into the lane at Winworth. She may be as old as Mrs. Methuselah but she certainly is lively on her feet.

"Leslie and Lillian moved yesterday so that now I can go ahead with the papering of Sunny Hill House and begin moving things up from the schoolhouse as soon as the road is fixed.

"Shannon & Luchs reported that they had an applicant for 1026 on a yearly lease at a slight reduction and expressed the opinion that he would make a good tenant. I suggested that the lease be made for the house only so that the garage might be rented separately, but they said the garage was one of the inducements of their client to rent by the year. In view of this consideration, rather than run the risk of having the house stand idle for months perhaps and to avoid frequent changes from renting on a monthly basis to tenants who might not be able to pay the rent, I authorized them to proceed with the lease. I have not heard from them since but will probably run into Washington

next week if I can spare the time from the many things requiring attention at Sunny Hill.

"My only concern is for you and what you are missing and will miss by not joining me at Sunny Hill. However, it is entirely up to you. I want you to feel absolutely free in the matter. I accepted your last statements as meaning that your definite choice was to remain permanently in Washington. I therefore plan to move up to Sunny Hill about the first of April, taking mother and sister with me so that Sister Nellie may keep house for me and rent Winworth House and thereby derive some revenue from it. However, if you should change your mind and decide before we move that you prefer to come to Sunny Hill, let me know and you will be welcome. If I have notice in advance mother and sister will remain at Winworth as in the past and all will be well. Mother and sister both understand this and acquiesce in it and I am sure would welcome you. After we move, ^ohowever, it will be too late to unscramble things and your voluntary separation will become permanent. In any event I shall expect to provide for you so far as my finances will permit. Unless I hear from you to the contrary before the last of March I shall assume that you prefer to remain in your little 'nest.'

"Well, my dear, I hope that you will succeed in finding agreeable employment so that you may realize your dream of being 'independent.'

"With love from

"Daddy."

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4434

Monday, 16 March, Winworth; about three inches of snow fell during the night. Valley and trees very beautiful and I took some pictures. I spent the day at Sunny Hill House tearing out the old wainscotting of the dining room and set up a small stove so that sister and her helper could have some heat when they came to paper the rooms. A truck load of lumber and the sceptic tank and pipe were delivered in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 17 March, Winworth; a bright cool day; roads wet and slippery from the snow. The carpentry work on the Whippoorwill House was finished and I swept out the place. I brought Sister Nellie and two women helpers up to begin papering in Sunny Hill House. Had men digging trenches to~~o~~ and from the sceptic tank to the house. The carpenters put up the frame to the addition to Sunny Hill House and cut through the floor and walls for the cellar stairs. We had a nice supper of boiled chicken and dumplings. I was very tired in the evening from the day's activities.

Wednesday, 18 March, Winworth; clear and pleasant; a little snow that soon disappeared. After taking sister and her help up to Sunny Hill for the papering work I drove into Frederick for nails and other things needed by the workmen and groceries for the family. Good progress was made on the house and on the drainage system. Lewis and I measured and ²marked off the road between the mail box and the entrance gate. A representative of the Potomac Edison Company came out and took measurements. I refused to consider the question of a frigidair until after the electric lights were installed. A representative of the county farm bureau came out and I signed an application for insurance on the sedan. I spent the afternoon drawing nail~~s~~s out of the wainscotting material I had taken out of the kitchen. Noticed that the narcissi and the iris were starting to grow. Heard the first robin in the shrubbery. Several

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4435

men applied for work on the road which was expected to begin tomorrow.

Thursday, 19 March, Winworth; cloudy, dark, cold, and snowing lightly. Lewis started work on the road with eight men at 7.30 a.m. but had to quit at 9 a.m. I hung an old door in the basement of the Whippoorwill House. In the afternoon Lewis and his helper drove to town in the pickup for tools for the road work. I had a nap and wrote some letters. Had a rather heavy mail, including a letter from wife saying that her separation was not voluntary but was forced by me because my mind had been poisoned by my mother and other members of the family, which was her reason for not coming with me to Sunny Hill. This was my first intimation of what was on her mind, but that did not explain her conduct and hostility and opposition for more than a year.

Friday, 20 March, Winworth; clearing and cold. I took sister and her helpers up to Sunny Hill for the papering. They finished the Whippoorwill. I made a fire for them and brought boxes and materials. Then I shoveled snow off the verandas and walks. Repaired a leak in a gutter. A truck load of lumber and mill work was delivered. Had a letter from the real estate agents in Washington inclosing lease and contract for commissions, both of which I signed and returned by mail. Also wrote instructions to an agent to renew insurance on all farm buildings. In the afternoon Lewis and his gang of men resumed work on the road. Two representatives of the Potomac Edison Company came out with estimates and contracts^e for erecting a branch line and wiring the houses. I declined to sign the contracts until I had an opportunity to read and consider them. I drove mother to town to do some shopping. Lewis called to give me the names and time of the men working on the road. Wrote some letters. I felt much relieved to know that the town house was rented

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4436

and that I could look forward to living at Sunny Hill with a small outside income. It should be a delightful place to work and play because of the shrubbery, the rocks and woods, and the view of the beautiful valley, and because the sun seems always to shine there.

Saturday, 21 March, Winworth; clear and pleasant. Work on the road and kitchen progressed. I drove to town for some dynamite for use on the road and spent most of the day pruning. Received first check for rent of the town house.

(Wife, 21 March, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill, R. 5, Frederick, Md.

21 March 1931.

"My dear blind little wife:

"Your letter of the 17th came during the second snow storm within a week. Knowing you so well, I read it understandingly and sympathetically. However, I think the time has gone by for accusations and counter-accusations or argument between us which would now serve no useful purpose. We are both getting old and the time that yet remains is too short to spend in further controversy. It is now a question of getting as much tranquility and happiness out of life as circumstances will permit. My sincere feeling regarding you is regret at the opportunities for happiness that you are sacrificing in order to have your own way, partly from a mistaken sense of loyalty to others. Of course, I could answer every statement in your letter, but in doing so could not avoid saying some things that would hurt you deeply and my greatest desire is to avoid hurting you and to protect you from the consequences of your own misconceptions.

"Your separation from me was voluntary on your part, because it is something I never suggested; because it was inconsistent with my wishes and contrary to my plans; and the fact remains that when my official salary ended and I was without any income but under heavy continuing expenses at 1026, and when the obvious course was to go to Sunny Hill, end the expense, and try to get some income from 1026 with the least possible delay, you made entirely different plans and refused to go with your husband. Your plan of separation was not made known to me until sometime in February, although you will remember that more than a year previously you had announced that you would never desert Otis, when I said that he would either have to study, go to work, or leave my roof. That meant, of course, separation from me and the sacrifice of our married life.

"I am sure that you will recall my statement that I wanted you to feel absolutely free to act as you thought best and that I did not intend to say one word to dissuade you. Naturally the situation was embarrassing to both of us and you were not very explicit. I was not sure just how 'set' you were on freedom, independence, and having your own way about the separation. Nothing has been said about it up here outside the family other than that you do not care to come to the country before spring opens. If you came out at the beginning of April no one here would be the wiser, and it seemed only fair to give you an opportunity to reconsider your voluntary decision. As soon as the buildings and road are repaired, about the first of April, I expect to move up to Sunny Hill. Naturally I shall have to have a housekeeper. If you came I would expect you to keep house for me, because that is an understood part of a wife's business. Otherwise, I should have to get some one else, either a stranger or a member of my family. I discussed this with Sister Nellie, who said she would be glad to go--and this arrangement will have several mutual advantages. I had never contemplated having members of my own family at Sunny Hill or asking you to live with them, not only because I think it is wrong in principle but especially because of your feeling toward them. Moving from Winworth to Sunny Hill is a serious matter for them, and after moving, getting settled, and especially after Winworth is rented, I could not, in justice to them, ask them to move out again on your account.

"It was for all of these reasons that I wrote as I did in my last letter. I interpret your reply of the 17th as a final decision to remain in Washington and pursue your own sweet way. Perhaps, on the whole, this is best because your coming to Sunny Hill must have been with the understanding that in future my wishes will prevail. Perhaps in deciding upon voluntary separation you choose wisely for us both, because living separately causes of irritation will be remov-

ed and we can each have our own way without further conflict. Life is getting too short for conflict. Separately we can remain friends, with many fond recollections of good times and mutual experiences, see and write each other from time to time, and with the lapse of time our hurts, bitterness and unhappiness of the past few years will soften and pass. I shall long to help you, protect you, and make your way easy for you if you will only keep me informed of your difficulties.

"I repeat that I feel financially responsible for you and will make the best provision for you--alone--not for others with you--that my circumstances will allow. I will also try to notify you in advance of any call I may make and hope you will do the same with me.

"And now, dear, not 'good bye' but 'au revoir.'

"The saddest words of tongue or pen,

"Are these, 'It might have been.'

"With love and best wishes for your health and happiness, and the realization of your dreams, from

"Your husband,

"L.M.E."

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4437

Sunday, 22 March, Winworth; cold and flurries of rain and snow. Charlie and Eunice spent the day with us. I wrote some letters and had a nap in the afternoon. Eunice said that Thelma told her and Mr. Price told Mr. Johnston that wife gave Otis \$50 in addition to what I gave him for his Florida trip. I spent the evening looking up ^Prices of plumbing and fixtures in mail order catalogues to form some idea of what it should cost to fit up Sunny Hill House.

Monday, 23 March, Winworth; clear and pleasant. Sister and her helpers were pasting some wall paper that had come loose at the lower place and then cleaned the house. I helped with boxes and boards and materials. Work on the road proceeded. I did some pruning. Plumbers were out to measure for a heating and water system.

More and more I thought Sunny Hill a beautiful place to work and play because of the sunny landscape and the broad views of diversified topography. Had the carpenter put another window in the large room and two additional windows and a glass door in the dining room so that the house began to take on a different look.

Tuesday, 24 March, Winworth; clear until 3 p.m. when it began to rain. Road and carpentry work proceeding. I spent the forenoon pruning. Saw the first crocus bloom. The plumbers were out and started work. In the afternoon I took sister to Frederick, she to buy groceries and I to buy some tools, materials, and clothing. Had Lewis bring out a new farm gate in the truck and Billie Shoemaker and I hung it at the lower place.

Wednesday, 25 March, Winworth; foggy and showers. Took sister and Elizabeth to the upper place and they worked at staining the floors of the Whippoorwill while I cleaned out the basement. Road work proceeded in the afternoon. The tinner was out to put metal roofs on the verandas. Tanners, plumbers, and carpenters making good progress.

(1931, March, Winworth;

E--4438

I spent most of my time running errands and bringing things for the others and was tired in the evening.

Thursday, 26 March, Winworth; clear and pleasant. I took sister and her helpers and they worked at papering the walls of Sunny Hill House and varnishing the floors of the Whippoorwill. The carpenter finished the new kitchen and bathroom and other alterations in the afternoon. The tinner were at work on the Cricket House roof. Lewis with his gang on the road. Billy Shoemaker digging trenches for the sewage system. I carted the old shingles that came from the Cricket House roof to the woodshed, put in a step to the stairs leading to the carpenter shop, and helped about generally. I took mother into Frederick in the afternoon and we both did some shopping. The tenant moved into the lower place.

Friday, 27 March, Winworth; fair and cold. Road work and papering in full swing and Cricket House roof finished. This roof was of imitation tile painted red and looked very nice over the gray stone walls. I had wanted to buy earthen tile but found it was about the most expensive roofing material in this country, probably because there is so little demand for it. It is the cheapest roofing in most foreign countries.

I had to drive to town for more paste. I saw the tenant at the lower place and let him have some wire to repair the barnlot fence. Another strip of paper ~~wall~~ peeled off at the lower place and sister and one assistant went down to stick it back on again. I took the women helpers home in the late afternoon. I signed contracts and right-of-way waivers for the electric men today and they promised to have the work done in three weeks. Had several other business callers. was excessively tired in the evening.

Saturday, 28 March, Winworth; raining. The first good rain we have had in a year. I was suffering from a lame back. Lewis

I spent most of my time running errands and buying things for the others and was tired in the evening.

Thursday, 26 March, Minnesota; clear and pleasant. I took a walk and saw the new kitchen and bathroom and other alterations in the house and was watching the flight of the Mississippi. The carpenter and the painter were at work on the latest house roof. Lewis with his saw on the road. Billy Schenck was driving a truck for the sawing station. I carried the old things that came from the latest house roof to the woodshed, but in a step to the shop leading to the carpenter shop, and helped about generally. I took a walk into Frederick in the afternoon and we both did some shopping. The tenant moved into the lower place.

Friday, 27 March, Minnesota; fair and cold. Some work and paper in the full swing and the latest house roof finished. This roof was of limestone this painted red and looked very nice. Over the new stone walls. I had wanted to buy something else but found it was about the most expensive roofing material in this country, probably because there is so little demand for it. It is the cheapest roofing in most foreign countries.

I had to drive to town for more paper. I saw the tenant at the lower place and let him have some wire to repair the barbed fence. Another strip of paper will be laid off at the lower place and after and one assistant went down to check it back on a line. I took the woman who had come to the late afternoon. I signed contracts and they were for the electric line today and they promised to have the work done in three weeks. Had several other business calls and was tired in the evening.

Saturday, 28 March, Minnesota; raining. The first good rain we have had in a year. I was out with a law book. Lewis

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4439

saw the county commissioners and was authorized to continue with his men two days longer and to order 36 tons of crushed rock at county expense, I to pay for the hauling. I paid some bills and wrote some letters. Charlie and Eunice came out late at night through a heavy rain.

Sunday, 29 March, Winworth; clear and cold. Mother helped me trim wall paper, because I did not know that it is necessary to specify trimmed paper in ordering. Even yet I cannot understand why it should be necessary. The painter came and I took him up to Sunny Hill to estimate the cost of the work to be done. Found the new metal roof over the kitchen and bathroom was leaking. After luncheon I walked down to the schoolhouse and found the household goods in storage there in good condition. Wrote some letters.

(Emma Burton, ✓ 29 ~~Jan~~ March, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill, R.5, Frederick, Md.,

29 March 1931.

My dear Emma:

"I wonder if your Aunt Nellie has given you any hint that all is not well between us and has not been for several years--all because of our differences of opinion regarding the bringing-up of the two adopted children. I had hoped to tell you ~~w~~ something about it the last time I saw you in Washington, but had no opportunity.

"During the last year, especially, there has been more different kinds of foolishness at 1026 than you could bat your eyes at, all because I insisted that Otis should either study, go to work, behave decently in the house--our house--or get out. The net result of all this foolishness was that when my financial situation made it imperative to cut down expenses and arrange for some sort of an income and the most obvious course seemed to be to come to Sunny Hill and rent 1026, wifey refused to come with me--in fact, virtually deserted me in order to devote her life to Otis. This is a simple bald statement of facts, but around them is a long, long story, too long to outline in a letter and much of which had best be forgotten or at least not repeated.

"I shall, of course, continue to provide for wifey so far as my situation will permit so that she shall not actually want. The tragedy of it is, of course, that our married life is broken up just when I am free of official responsibilities and can begin to enjoy life on a beautiful country place with a million dollars worth of scenery, where we had both planned to spend the closing years of our life in peace--while she at her age is attempting to assume new responsibilities, seek employment, earn her own living with the idea of being free and independent, and living in one little interior room of a small apartment. Clearly something is wrong with her, but you know how 'set' she is in

her opinions and I feel that there is nothing I can say or do that would change her. Time alone can do that.

"I am writing all this to you because you are the last remaining member of her family, the nearest and dearest to her, and my own good friend as well, and I believe you will come nearer to understanding the tragedy involved in our separation than any one else. I am hoping that you and Mr. Burton can pay me a visit at Sunny Hill some Sunday this summer, and perhaps we might have an opportunity to talk over some aspects of the situation. At any rate, if the weather is decent, I am sure you would have a pleasant trip.

"Aside from my deep concern over wifey's situation I am having the time of my life preparing for the opening of spring and the coming flowers.

"I hope all is well with you.

"Affectionately,

"Your Uncle Lee."

(1931, March, Winworth)

E--4440

Monday, 30 March, Winworth; clear and cold. After breakfast I took a pickup load of things from the schoolhouse to Sunny Hill. Also I took up sister and one helper and they finished the papering. I took the painter to town and after doing some shopping brought him and a supply of paints and brushes ~~at~~ out and he began work. Lewis and his gang continued work on the road. The roof men came out and tried to stop the leak over the bathroom. A furniture man came out to measure the windows for curtains. Telephoned the real estate agent in Washington authorizing some painting to be done at the town house.

Tuesday, 31 March, Winworth; cloudy and cold. Work on the road still progressing. Lewis went to town to see the county commissioners and by bluster and persuasion succeeded in getting their authorization for a large metal pipe to use ^{as} a culvert for a small stream near the mail box. In the afternoon Sister Nellie and Elizabeth were staining floors. Billie and I cleaned out two of the sheds one of which I proposed to use for storage in lieu of an attic. In the afternoon we cleaned out the barn. The painter worked all day on the inside woodwork. After supper the tenant on the lower place called to ask for work and try to sell me a cow.

Wednesday, 1 April, Winworth; rain, wind, and cold. Had a bad night and read until 3 a.m. and was very sleepy when I got up at 7 a.m. The painter telephoned there was a bad leak over the bathroom. I spent part of the day writing letters ordering things needed. An agent called to look at mother's Edison phonograph and Sister Nellie's old radio which he said he would accept in part payment for a new radio outfit. In the afternoon he brought out two good instruments, one a Majestic and the other a Victor, so that we could try them both and decide which we liked best. We were pleased with both of them. After it stopped raining I took Sister Nel

(1931, Apl. Winworth)

E--4441

Nellie to town and we both did some shopping. I bought a pair of rubber boots and an oil coat or slicker.

(Wife, 1 April, brown folder)

With love,

"Daddy."

1 April 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"I inclose ~~my~~ monthly check for \$50.00.

"Hope all is going well with you and that all your dreams are coming true.

"We had a fine rain here last Saturday and Sunday. I am extremely busy and making good progress in cleaning up. We expect to move to Sunny Hill just as soon as road and weather permit. Sorry that it is not you who are going with me. Crocuses bloomed this week, but everything else is very backward.

"Hoping to hear from you

"With love,

"Daddy."

Thursday, 2 April, Winworth; clearing weather. I visited both lower and upper Sunny Hill and bought a small Jersey cow from the tenant. I spent some time putting cement over the seams in the new metal roof over the bathroom which leaked badly during the last rain. The painter had finished the woodwork of the Whippoorwill and the kitchen of Sunny Hill House. Harness for the little mule came from a mail order house today, after prolonged delay and much correspondence. The tenant came up and I set him to clearing trees and brush away from the white pines I had planted on the ridge back of the houses. Had calls also from a tractor agent and others.

Friday, 3 April, Winworth; threatening rain. The little Jersey cow was turned over to us today. She was a pretty little thing, fawn colored, and as docile as a cat. Early in the afternoon I had Lewis and four men with the truck transfer the piano from the schoolhouse to the Whippoorwill. It was very heavy and hard for inexperienced men to handle. We spent the rest of the afternoon moving furniture from the schoolhouse by truck and pickup. At noon I paid off the road men. Had a nice letter from wife saying that she expected to visit Emma Burton at Richmond. Mother and I spent the evening listening to the radio which we enjoyed greatly.

Saturday, 4 April, Winworth; fair and mild. Lewis took my account for the road work and brought back a check in reimbursement. I drove to town for paint and other things. I saw the agent of the Potomac Edison Company who said progress was being made on my application for the construction of a branch line. At Sunny Hill I found waiting for me a contractor for heating and plumbing. Made another trip to town for hinges. After luncheon took mother and sister to town to do some shopping. Bought a spring tooth harrow. We were back at 2.30 p.m. Took mother with me to Sunny Hill so that she could see the progress that had been made. The painter seemed to be rather slow

but was doing good work. He said it took a lot of time to putty up holes and blemishes in the old woodwork. Returning to Winworth I brought in a supply of wood for the night. Fitted the harness to Molly Mula and then turned her loose in the lane to go down to the spring for water. She kicked up her heels and galloped off like a colt. It was hard to believe that this lively creature was the same as the shadowy ghost of an old dejected mule that I had bought from Guy McKenzie partly out of pity and that I feared was too far gone to survive. The static was so terrific in the evening that we could not use the radio.

Sunday, 5 April, Winworth; fair and cold. After breakfast I took a load of things up to Sunny Hill. Made a fire in the new fireplace in the Whippoorwill and found that it smoked badly. Started an oil heater in the Sunny Hill House to dry out the wall paper. I chopped and brought in a wheelbarrow load of wood. Found the new door of the Whippoorwill could not be closed either because it was swollen from moisture or the paint had been applied after it was fitted. I took it off and set the stripping back so that the door could be fastened. Levelled up and started the Edison phonograph. Then I put the double desk together. It had been taken apart to get it through doors and I had some difficulty in fitting the parts together again. Also I screwed the mirrors on the chiffonier and the bureau and put the castors in a number of pieces of furniture.

Sister Nellie prepared a nice dinner at Winworth. She had some visitors from Washington who stayed and talked until after 5 o'clock.. Charlie and Eunice were out also. Charlie presented me with a large rocking chair which I had been using at Winworth. They enjoyed the radio music so much that it was long after dark when they left. I wrote a letter accepting bids for installing a heating,

(1931, Apl. Winworth)

E--4444

water, bath, and sewage systems, to cost about \$650.

Monday, 6 April, Winworth; rain, sleet, wind, and cold.

Most of the furniture at the schoolhouse was moved up to Sunny Hill. I opened up a lot of boxes and Elizabeth unpacked the books. Sister and an assistant repasted some of the paper that was coming off in Sunny Hill House. The painter finished the inside work in the afternoon. After luncheon I went to town for a shipment of evergreen seedlings and farm tools that had arrived at the express office. The last of the crushed stone was brought out and spread on the new road. I told Lewis that this little road that he had supervised the construction of would be his monument because it was well done.

Tuesday, 7 April, Winworth; raining, snowing, hailing, and blowing all day. Very disagreeable. It was a beautiful sight to see the snowflakes driving across the field in front of Sunny Hill House. Sister Nellie, Elizabeth, and Billie were cleaning at Sunny Hill House. At the Whippoorwill I arranged the bookcases and levelled them up. Sent Lewis to town for the new harrow and some groceries. After he returned we moved some things up for mother and sister. Had Lewis set up the oil cooking range which I had ordered upon sister's recommendation. It was rather complicated. Had Billie set up a stove in the Whippoorwill because the open fireplace smoked so badly. The ~~road~~ radio man was out and I gave him a check for \$100 in payment, mother contributing her Edison phonograph and sister her old radio. After supper I drove up to Sunny Hill to spend the night in order to make the insurance effective. The place was covered with snow and very beautiful. Put the sedan in the stone garage for the first time, because on our week-end visits Leslie Masser usually had two cars in it, one of his own and another belonging to a relative. After opening Sunny Hill House I went

(1931, April, Sunny Hill)

E--4445

over to the Whippoorwill, made a fire in the stove, and spent the evening sorting books.

Wednesday, 8 April, S.H.; clear and springlike. After breakfast we brought up several loads of things from Winworth. Sister Nellie and Elizabeth were washing and packing up. Lewis, Billie, and I spent the afternoon setting up the oil cooking range and other furniture. Had Lewis go to town with the truck for express packages, lumber, and groceries. Billie hauled some straw up from the lower place. I nailed up strips and put in coat hangers in the closets. The plumbers came and started work on the heating plant and plumbing. They installed the fixtures in the bathroom. I spent the evening sorting books. It was very beautiful at Sunny Hill. Yesterday the snow was driven across the fields in front of the houses in horizontal and slanting streaks and flurries. Today everything was bathed in sunshine. I noticed that a colony of red ants had eaten all the crocus blossoms.

Thursday, 9 April, S.H.; clear and bright. When I went down ~~to~~ to Winworth for breakfast I saw that some boys had tried to pull up ~~the~~ ^{hoodlum} the post to which a new mailbox was attached. They had succeeded only in loosening the post but had pulled off the box and thrown it in a ditch a short distance up the road. During the day I learned the names of the three boys who did it, but decided not to report them. After breakfast I took a load in the pickup, including a typewriter desk and chair. Set Lewis to sowing clover and timothy seed and Billie to cleaning out the poultry house. I spent several hours trying to fix a new lock on the front door of Sunny Hill House that did not fit, the woodwork was old and badly splintered from having had several locks at different times and of different sizes, and altogether I had a most aggravating experience. Did some telephoning for

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4446

~~some~~ lumber and other things that had not been ~~all~~ delivered. After luncheon I drove to Frederick for hardware and paint, and left the broken mailbox to be repaired. Also went to the express office for some things that had arrived. Took the pickup to a shop to have it measured for a top. I spent a busy afternoon running about and it was late when I returned. While eating supper Lewis ~~came~~ came in to say that Mollie Mula had got the gate open and fled. He had ridden her up to Sunny Hill and put her in the barn lot. I sent him ~~back~~ ⁱⁿ with the pickup ^{with} and instructions to put the car in the garage and then look for the mule. I drove up in sister's car and at 9 p.m. she telephoned that the mule had returned of her own accord, announcing her arrival with a loud bray. Verily the old creature was rejuvenated. I spent the evening arranging books.

Friday, 10 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. After breakfast Lewis and I hauled a load of things up for mother and sister. Then we planted some elm trees for shade. At the lower place we planted ~~an~~ elm and put hinges on the barn door. Had Billie rake leaves off the Cricket House lawn and Lewis trimming grape vines. In the afternoon I had them prepare the ground and sow grass seed on the little meadow below the narcissus patch. A few of the earlier varieties of narcissus were beginning to bloom.

In the afternoon I brought mother, sister, and Laddie~~x~~, the dog, up to Sunny Hill with a load of their things. After supper Sister Nellie and I drove down to Winworth and with the help of Lewis caught 35 hens and brought them and two broods of chicks back with us. Elizabeth all day cleaning at Sunny Hill. We had our first supper in the ^{new} kitchen and mother and sister were to spend their first night at Sunny Hill. Buds were swelling rapidly.

Saturday, 11 April, S.H.; fair and warm. I pruned some roses. Lewis and Billie sowing oats at the lower place. The plumbers

fired up and turned on the steam heat for the first time. Took Sister Nellie to town to do some shopping. I lost time getting a new tire and at another place calling for the covered top for the pickup, neither of which was ready. Billie and I brought the cows up from Winworth, he afoot and I riding the mule. They turned into the lower place in spite of all we could do and we had difficulty in getting them out and on the right road for the upper place. In the evening I had my first warm bath in the new bathroom. It was a real luxury. Charlie and Eunice came out in the evening.

Sunday, 12 April, S.H.; clear and rather cool. I spent the day picking up things about the place and pruning. In the afternoon I had a nap and finished sorting books in the Whippoorwill. Found that my entire collection of agricultural bulletins and a considerable number of books would have to be stored in the attic for want of space. Sister, Eunice, and mother very busy placing furniture and rugs. They fixed up the dining room, kitchen, and bathroom. All were bright and cheery. It was quite cool until I built a fire in the furnace and got up steam. Charlie and Eunice occupied the Cricket House and seemed to enjoy their visit. The lawns were greening up and shrubs budding rapidly. Maples and pussy willows in bloom. It was a beautiful day.

Monday, 13 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. Lewis and Billie sowing oats. I pruned some rose bushes near the grape arbor so as to have them ready for transplanting. They were taking up too much space. Went to town to see about the mail box, get a wheel for the disk harrow, and the covered top for the pickup. Had to wait for the top to be fitted. Then went to the Ford Company for a side mirror made necessary by the new top, and while the pickup was being oiled and greased I did some shopping. On the way back I picked up mother at Winworth and a lot of things she had packed. In the after-

noon I stained the woodwork of the new top. Sister Nellie picked and tied about fifty bunches of narcissus. In the ~~the~~ afternoon I wrote some letters.

Tuesday, 14 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. Sister Nellie and Elizabeth making garden. At 8.30 a.m. I went to town with mother and left flowers at the hotel and then drove to Washington. I left mother with Eunice to be taken to a picture show. I went to the bank and gave up the safety deposit box and brought back the contents. Visited the Pennock wholesale flower establishment and talked with Mr. Bauer, the manager. He showed me a lot of beautiful flowers that could not be sold and would have to be thrown away. He said the flower market was continually glutted. At a secondhand book store I purchased a collection of Jack London stories. Went to the Cosmos Club to read the morning paper. Mr. Sherman, assistant forester, came and sat opposite. He described in an interesting way a survey he had been called upon to make of the timber and water resources of the Mississippi Valley and how the survey showed that the fundamental problem of that great region was soil erosion rather than timber conservation and reforestation.

I left in time to attend the luncheon of the Farm Hands Club at the Harrington Hotel. It was well attended and I met many friends, including Assistant Secretary Dunlap, and there were some good talks. The secretary of the California Egg Producers Association, the largest in the world, said that two percent of all the eggs in the United States were produced within one hundred and fifty miles of San Francisco, that the association maintained twenty-two distributing agencies, and the preceding year had disposed of one and a half million eggs, which were classified into seventeen grades according to size, color, cleanliness, appearance, and quality of contents. A representative of an egg drying firm described the process of drying eggs.

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4449

He said the shells were broken by girls and the contents forced ~~throg~~ through spray nozzles with holes too small for a pin as a mist into a chamber at a temperature of 300 degrees where it falls as a powder that is removed quickly by a revolving cylinder. Mr. Pike Johnston described a recent trip to Panama and Costa Rica to attend an inter American conference on good roads, especially the construction of a road from Laredo, Texas, through to South America, a distance of 3,500 miles. He said that about 2,300 miles was already open to automobiles. The southern countries were expecting a large tourist traffic from the United States when the road is completed.

After luncheon I returned to Eunice's apartment, got mother, and drove to Frederick, where we stopped for groceries, and reached Sunny Hill at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, 15 April, S.H.; clear, cold morning, hot afternoon. I was kept busy with many odd jobs. The plumbers finished installing the electric pump. In the morning I hitched Mollie Mula to a plow for the first time. She worked well but was too fast. I could not slow her down with the reins and in a short time I was out of breath and exhausted.

Thursday, 16 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. I went to town with flowers for the hotel, left a radio battery to be recharged, and had sister's ~~xx~~ car examined. Sister Nellie and Elizabeth set out the small evergreens I had purchased. I opened the furrows with the mule and single shovel plow. After supper I took sister down to Winworth where we got some plum blossoms for the hotel. We had several callers in the afternoon and were kept ^P busy. In the evening we sat on the veranda of the Whippoorwill awhile and I played some phonograph records rd ~~xs~~

(1931, April, S.H.

E--4450

Friday, 17 April, S.H.; fair and warm. I took mother with me to town to deliver flowers to the hotel. Left her to do some shopping while I went for a bushel of clover seed. After parking near the opera house I saw mother on the street. She was walking slowly, with her head up, eyes straight ahead, and a beatific smile on her face. She passed within a few feet of me without the slightest sign of recognition. She seemed to be in some kind of a trance. I followed her to the entrance of the bank where she became slightly confused and after speaking twice to her she seemed to wake up and, of course, recognized me.

Sister Nellie and Elizabeth finished planting the evergreen trees in the forenoon. I plowed the vegetable garden with the little mule. I had Oscar Schultz, a carpenter, doing odd jobs, fixing window cords, putting up shelves, and the like. In the late afternoon Sister Nellie and Elizabeth picked narcissus blossoms, and after supper sister and I picked some more. Mother walked to the mail box and back and was very busy, but silent and slow in her movements. Pumped the bored well dry today.

Saturday, 18 April, S.H.; clear and warm. After breakfast I drove to town for some lime. Put an advertisement in the local paper, "Sunny Hill Daffodils for Sale." Sent Lewis to town to sell narcissus on the street. He brought back \$5.80 in cash and a credit with Dora Masser, who kept a grocery, for \$5.50. I saw many people on the streets of Frederick with flowers to sell. Had the clumps of rose bushes near the grape arbor dug up. Lewis and Billie had trouble getting the cows out of the pasture and I went down to help. I was excessively tired when I got back. A man came up to fix my small battery radio set in the Whippoorwill, but without success.

Sunday, 19 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. Sister Nellie and several helpers tied narcissus in bunches until 10 o'clock. I did

(1931, April, S.H.)

ENN4451

I did some odd jobs and wrote some letters. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Aaronoff, friends of sister's, and Mrs. Aaronoff's father and mother, and their son, an overgrown boy, came out. Mr. Aaronoff was secretary of the Emergency Employment Bureau. They were enthusiastic about everything and picked and carried away with them a large quantity of narcissus blossoms. Several visitors from Frederick came out to view the flowers. In the evening Eunice and Charlie gave us some good music on the violin and piano. They left reluctantly at 8 p.m. It was a strenuous day for both sister and I. The cherry tree near the house opened its first blossom in the early morning and by afternoon was about one-fourth in full bloom.

✓
(Wife, 19 April, brown folder)

1944

(1944, April, 19)

I did some odd jobs and wrote some letters. In the afternoon I
and Mrs. Aaronoff, friends of sister's, and Mrs. Aaronoff's father
and mother, and their son, an overgrown boy, came out. Mr. Aaronoff
was secretary of the Emergency Employment Bureau. They were rather
staid about everything and picked and carried away with them a
large quantity of various blossoms. Several visitors from brother-
in-law came out to view the flowers. In the evening Uncle and Charlie
gave us some good music on the violin and piano. They left rather
early at 8 p.m. It was a strenuous day for both sister and I. The
cherry trees near the house opened the first blossoms in the early
morning and by afternoon was about one-fourth in full bloom.

(Wife, 19 April, Brown Folder)

19 April 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"I was greatly pleased to get your letter of the 11th, which came this week. I am glad you are enjoying your visit. I should like very much to see the Poat place and hope Mr. Poat will visit Sunny Hill sometime this summer.

"Spring is very late here. The narcissus began to bloom a little three days ago and are now opening up fast, but are rather short because of the drouth last year and the dry weather the last ten days. The weather in March brought rain and many snow fluerries and much cold. I am sending some pictures I took after one of our snows. It took the photggrapher in Frederick two weeks ~~xl~~ to make the enlargements, and then he did not follow instructions to make them postcard size, so now I shall have to use a large envelope.

"The Forsythia has not bloomed and many other plants are badly damaged and many dead ~~to~~ from the long drouth. However, spring opened up a few days ago and now it is wonderful to see the buds bursting. The cherry tree by the house opened its first blossom this morning and now it is a sheet of white. The violets about the fern bed appear to be dead and I shall try to get some tame ones.

"Molly Mula and I had our first try-out at plowing a few days ago and after some unnecessary geeing and hawing we reached an understanding and she became very satisfactory. She carries Lewis back and forth morning and evening and saves him the long walk.

"Now that spring is here there are a thousand things to be looked after so that life is strenuous, exciting, and at times fatiguing, but I enjoy it thoroughly. Many visitors ~~e~~ were up today to see the narcissus and there were some sales.

"I hope that you and Emma and all the Burtons are well and enjoying the Richmond spring, which is probably two or three weeks ahead of ours.

"Love to you and affectionate regards to Emma.

"Daddy."

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4452

Monday, 20 April, S.H.; clear and pleasant. I went to town in the early morning to purchase a number of things needed for the farm. Lewis took a shipment of narcissus to the express office. Had the carpenter make some small closets in the rooms occupied by mother and sister and hang a swing on the veranda for sister. I had difficulty in laying the linoleum in the bathroom because it was stiff, broke easily, and there were many pipes and the legs of the bath tub to be fitted. I was called away many times and once ~~was~~ when I was away the linéoleum unrolled behind the shut door. I had to force the door open wide enough to slip my hand through and with a sickel reach around and pry the linoleum up far enough so the door could be partially opened and I could squeeze through. It is surprising what diabolical intelligence some inanimate objects display in giving trouble to humans.

Sister Nellie and helpers were picking and tying narcissus. After supper I cut branhches of flowering cherries and shrubs for the hotel. When I came to write up my notes for the evening I discovered that my pocket book containing about fifty dollars was not in my pocket. I recalled the various places I had been that day, but it was too late to look for the missing pocket book that evening.

Tuesday, 21 April; fair and pleasant. I left at 6.15 a.m. and stopped at Winworth where I found the pocketbook lying on the lawn where it had fallen out of my coat pocket when I leaned over to pull up a vine. Then I drove to Washington to deliver severl boxes of narcissus to the Pennock Company. I made the delivery at 8 a.m. and was back in Frederick at 10 a.m. Sister Nellie and helpers were busy picking narcissus. Mr. Renn called to look at a heifer sister wished to sell, and the calf I got with the little Jersey.

Wednesday, 22 April, S.H.; cloudy, cool, and rain in the afternoon and evening. I drove to Washington with narcissus and stopped in

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4453

at Frederick on the way back to have the carbureter adjusted and leave an order for some lumber. The lumber was delivered at the farm within an hour. In the afternoon I took a load of narcissus to the express office for shipment to Baltimore. Did some shopping. Had the men setting out locusts seedlings in the back field at the lower place. After it began to rain Lewis and I assembled an old buggy harness for the mule and fixed up a farm cart. Mr. Renn and his son came for the two heifers we had sold him. Got up steam heat in the evening to warm up the house.

Thursday, 23 April, S.H.; clear and cold with a strong wind that whipped the narcissus blooms to shreds. Lewis plowing at Winworth. Billie and I took the big rose clumps and set them out in the glade near the public road. I did some pruning and odd jobs. Sister and Elizabeth doing the laundry in the forenoon and picking narcissus in the afternoon. I was very tired by evening. I suspect my exhaustion was ~~partly~~ partly due to being cold for several hours without ~~realiz~~ ~~ing~~ being aware of it. Nerve and muscle tension from chilliness always left me tired after warm^{weather} brought on relaxation.

Friday, 24 April, S.H.; clear and cold. Made an early trip to Washington with narcissus and was back at Frederick by 10 o'clock. It was a very cold ride. Lewis plowing the schoolhouse lot. Had Billⁱ bring in a supply of wood. Shultz working on shed. I spent several hours at work on the cart. Sister and Elizabeth picking narcissus. Phelps clearing trees and brush from around the pines. After supper sister and I went down to Winworth for a load of her things.

Saturday, 25 April, S.H.; cloudy and cool. Working all day at transplanting and other odd jobs. Sister and helpers picking and tying narcissus. Sent Lewis to town with a load and he brought back \$11.50. He brought back from the express office a set of new harness for the team. The narcissus field very beautiful although many of the blossoms

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4454

were spoiled by wind and rain. Just before supper I took mother down to Winworth and we brought back ~~of~~ a supply of jellies and some homemade wine. Eunice and Charlie came out before supper. After supper I went over to the Whippoorwill, made a fire, and tried the small radio. It was very unsatisfactory, weak and squeaky.

Sunday, 26 April, S.H.; rain in the morning. I went to town early through a heavy fog with flowers for the hotel. On the way back I stopped at the schoolhouse and brought up a load of pictures. At Sunny Hill I spent about an hour labeling keys to avoid trouble in future. I had a drawer full of them. Wrote some letters. Many ~~vis~~ visitors called in the afternoon to view the flowers. Among them were Leslie Masser and his wife. They were astonished at the transformation in the houses.

(Mr. Tutt, 26 April, brown folder)

26 April 1931.

"Mr. Ernest L. Tutt,
District Manager,
Chamber of Commerce Building,
Houston, Texas.

"Dear Mr. Tutt:

"Your letter of April 4 reached me in due time but I have been too busy to keep up with my correspondence.

"I am on leave without pay for six months, which practically means retirement. Came up here early in March and have renovated the dwelling, remodeled another, installed steam heat, water, plumbing, will soon have electricity, built a section of road, replenished and repaired equipment, besides spring planting. Wifey refused to leave Washington, mainly on account of the boy, Otis, and his bride, with whom she is living in a small flat in Washington. I brought my mother and sister up here to keep house for me.

"Your proposal that I visit Texas within the next two or three months is very attractive, but I do not see how it is possible for me to get away this year. After an absence of eight years there are a thousand things needing attention. Just now we are in the midst of the narcissus flower shipments and will have another hectic time with the peonies next month and until the middle of June. I feel therefore that I must decline the invitation.

"This is a beautiful country, as beautiful as any I saw abroad, I hope that when next you and Mrs. Tutt are in Washington that you will visit us. You can come in less than two hours by auto, or come out to Frederick by bus and I can bring you out. The route is Washington to Frederick and about five miles west on the Shookstown road. Simply write or telephone when you are coming.

well and
"Höping that you and yours are/prospering, and with best wishes,
I am,

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook."

(1931, April, & .)

E--4455

Monday, 27 April, H.H.; fair and cold. Took narcissus to Washington and did some shopping in Frederick. I was busy all day with miscellaneous jobs. Sister with helpers picking narcissus. The steam heat was a great comfort during this cold weather. Billie was very curious about the new harness for the team and I let him unpack it. The valley looked beautiful in the afternoon sunlight. Many shrubs were either dead or dying as a result of last year's drouth.

Tuesday, 28 April, S.H.; fair, cold, and windy. Took flowers to Washington in the early morning. Stopped in Frederick for groceries and at the schoolhouse for some more pictures. Did some tinkering on the cart and helped Billie and Shultz pull the back wall of a shed into position with rope and pulley. I transplanted a number of small peony plants that had come up after the parent plants were removed. Had Lewis plowing Observatory Hill where the blue grass had died out from the drouth. I was very tired, partly because of the cold ride to Washington and back in the morning, partly because I did not sleep well the night before, and partly because of the miscellaneous character of my work during the day that kept me changing from one thing to another.

Wednesday, 29 April, S.H.; clear and cool. Spent the forenoon dividing the Japanese iris clumps. Went to town in the afternoon and was shown over the Taney House by Mr. Delaplain, president of the association in charge. The house is a plain brick with white wooden trimmings, a fine old door with Judge Taney's name on it and pretty carved cornice. The front of the house is even with the sidewalk, and on one side was a strip of lawn and on the other an alley. The house was in charge of Mr. DeLashmatt. I signed the visitors register and was then shown over the place. There were many documents in Judge Taney's handwriting, as well as others by Francis Scott Key,

(1931, April, S.H.)

E--4456

a brother-in-law of Judge Taney. There were two rooms on the ground ~~fl~~ floor, back of which was the kitchen with an enormous fireplace, a big Dutch oven, and cooking utensils. In the rear of the kitchen was a wine cellar, a smoke room for meats, a work room with spinning wheels, and beyond that a large living room for the slaves. In this room were copies of the manumission papers signed and executed by Judge Taney freeing his slaves. The rooms upstairs were full of documents and objects of historic interest. The whole collection was pleasing and very interesting. On exhibition also was a biography of Judge Taney written by Mr. Delaplain.

After doing some shopping I drove home, stopping at a neighbor's in Shookstown for some sweet corn seed, and at Winworth for some lily blooms. Sister Nellie and her helpers finished picking narcissus for sale. Several visitors were out for flowers in the afternoon.

Thursday, 30 April, S.H.; clear and cold, with a coating of ice in the morning. Drove to town with sister and flowers for the hotel. Sister introduced me to the manager and the auditor of the hotel and I was paid twenty dollars for the flowers I had delivered during the month. While sister was shopping I drove across town to the Farmers Supply Company for plow points and ~~nails~~ and handles. The proprietor, Mr. Bussard, and his two sons were very friendly and displayed so much interest in my foreign travels and asked so many questions that I had difficulty in getting away. In the morning I sent Lewis to town for lumber.

After returning I fitted the old harness to Mollie Mula and hitched her to the cart. Then I hitched her to a buggy that father had once owned. The little mule worked well with both. Lewis and I spent several hours putting farm implements in order. It was rainy day work, but as rainy days were rare, except on Sunday, we had to take the time off in fair weather. Shultz still working on repairs to

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4457

farm buildings. The tenant nearly through with cutting away trees and brush from around the white pines. After supper I hung some pictures on the walls. Also burned some piles of brush on the plowed ground. It was the first time in a week that the wind was not strong.

(Diary for May, 1931, missing--also 1927 and April 1933; had to take data from Line-a-Day Book)

Friday, 1 May, S.H.; cloudy and cool. Lewis planting corn at Winworth. Billie and Shultz putting roof on shed. Sister and Elizabeth transplanting. I took a day off to write orders for plant material.

Saturday, 2 May, S.H.; fair and cool. Among other things I hitched Mollie Mula to the cart and hauled out some brush. Helped the men plant seedling locusts at the lower place. Shed roof finished. The tenant removed the horns from the two cows. The little Jersey suffered terribly and blood spurted from the stumps of her horns. Eunice and ^aCharlie came out in the evening.

Sunday, 3 May, S.H.; clear and cool. I took flowers to the hotel in the morning. Wrote some letters and sent a check to wife. A number of visitors out from Frederick in the afternoon.

Monday, 4 May, S.H.; clear, cold morning, hot afternoon. Woods beginning to green up. Drove to Washington and saw Dr. Woods who agreed to approve my application for retirement. Stopped a few minutes at the Cosmos Club and had luncheon with the Farm Hands Club. Attended a meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce on futures trading

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4458

I had hoped to see Madame Agresti of Rome, who, I understood was attending the conference as a delegate of the Italian government, but did not succeed in finding her. Reached home at 5.30 p.m. A consignment of plants was received.

(Wife, [✓]5 May, brown folder)

~~(Dr. Woods, same. omit~~

May 3, 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"Your postal came yesterday. I am glad you had a pleasant visit with Emma and liked the snow pictures I sent you.

"All is well at Sunny Hill, although spring is late and there are many losses from the drouth. Cherries and pears are in bloom and the valley is growing more beautiful day by day. Saw a little rabbit and a ground hog yesterday, and a fox was seen near the mail box this week. Whippoorwills were out for the first time last evening.

"We have been extremely busy with the narcissus the last ten days and are now through. They were small and short from the drouth and returns were correspondingly poor.

"One afternoon this week I inspected the Taney House in company with and at the invitation of Mr. Dellaplaine, President of the Association in charge. It is very interesting and I hope you will see it some time.

"Yesterday afternoon we were planting at Winworth and brought back with us a clematis plant which sister immediately took out of the pickup for planting. Lewis looked for it in vain and remarked to me 'I thought your sister brought up a little wine.' As she has 'a little wine' in her cellar I was puzzled for a moment until I realized he was referring to the clematis.

"We are hoping for rain and warmer weather. Hope you are all well and happy. With love,

"Daddy."

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4459

Wednesday, 6 May, S.H.; fair and pleasant. Made two trips to Frederick to bring out plants. Called on the County Agent and told him I wished to join the County Farm Bureau. He was very indifferent. Finished planting corn and plowed the garden.

Thursday, 7 May, S.H.: light rain in the forenoon. Setting out plants. Electric light men working on the place. Meadows greening up.

Friday, 8 May, S.H.; rather warm. Took flowers to the hotel. Sister Nellie and helpers setting out plants. Cut white lilacs in the afternoon. Feeling very tired all day.

Saturday, 9 May, S.H.; cool morning, hot afternoon. Took white lilacs to Washington and to the hotel in Frederick. Lewis sold some of the lilacs in town. Sister and her helpers still setting out plants.

Sunday, 10 May, S.H.; hot forenoon and heavy shower afternoon. First yellow iris in blossom near Whippoorwill. Mr. and Mrs. Teft Johnston from Washington spent the day with us.

Monday, 11 May, S.H.; pleasant with showers in afternoon. Electricians putting electric fixtures in the house. Lewis went to town for lime and lumber. Sister setting out plants. I mowed the lawn with Mollie Mula hitched to the lawn mower. Forest trees rapidly greening up. Wistaria in full bloom. Locust trees breaking buds.

Tuesday, 12 May, S.H.; showers and cold. Took flowers in to the hotel. Writing letters in the afternoon. Lewis and Billie hauled hay and worked in the barn. Schultz finished repairing the grape arbor. Electricians finishish^{ed}ing the wiring of Sunny Hill House and went to the Whippoorwill.

(Mrs. Sauter, 12 May, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill Farm, R.5, Frederick,Md.,

12 May 1931.

"Mrs. Valda A. Sauter,
78 Via Margutta,
Rome.

"Dear Mrs.Sauter:

"I was~~x~~ much pleased to receive your letter of April 8, which was forwarded to me here. Many times I have thought of you and Mr. Sauter, and when I do a vision rises before me of a large square room full of light, and shadows, of finished and unfinished paintings, ~~in-~~
~~tent/eager/countenances~~ of Mr. Sauter's kindly face and gentle courtesy, of you and your intent eager countenance, of the collection of remarkably fine drawings of the heads of celebrated men by your husband, of the medals he has won, and of the 'Via' with its interesting associations in front of your house. I was glad to learn of your leisurely wanderings among the Rhine cities and that Mr.Sauter was kept busy with his painting, because after all nothing smooths the ruffles out of life and develops a glowing interest like steady occupation with one's favorite work. I sometimes think also of the circumstances of your marriage and that while it involved certain sacrifices on your part, as all marriages do, your life seems to have been broader and fuller by reason of it.

"I left Rome in November, 1929, highly commended for the successful completion of my mission. I looked forward joyfully to the return to home, friends, familiar scenes, and to resuming my former position in the Department of Agriculture. I found, instead, that because of my long absences the family had grown away from me, many friends were dispersed, the administrative personnel of the department had changed, all ranks were full, the census project forgotten or obscured by current events of more pressing importance, and apparently no opening in the procession into which I might step. In Feb-

ruary I was appointed to a temporary position as Assistant to the Director of Scientific Work especially to organize the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry, and Animal Industry to be held in September at Washington. This I did and was elected its Secretary General. This assignment brought me much commendation and honor, but no position, and in January of this year I went on leave without pay, and have an application for retirement pending.

"Early in March I came up here where I have been exceedingly busy remodeling the buildings, installing modern conveniences such as plumbing, steam heat, electric lights, and so on; building a road, planning and planting. I have fitted up Sunny Hill House as our dwelling, the Whippoorwill Lodge as my library and office, and the little Cricket House for guests. Wifey Wifey refused to come with me so mother and sister are keeping house for me.

"Upon my return I found that the children had grown up and had most extravagant ideas, that both had become idle spendthrifts, refusing either to study or to work, their sole idea seeming to be to make life one glorious round of pleasure. Both quit school, both refused to qualify for any employment, both were disobedient and ungrateful, and both contracted secret marriages. Both are now living in tiny apartments, Thelma with her chauffeur husband and baby, and Otis with his mature divorcee bride. Thus ended our dream of educating and preparing for a useful and honorable life two waifs abandoned by their natural parents. I still think the result might have been different if I could have been with them during the critical period from twelve to seventeen years of age, or if wifey had shared my views as to the necessity for a modicum of work and discipline. With marriage their real education began and they were wholly unprepared for it. I am, of course, providing for my wife as generously as my means will permit and I suspect that she in turn is providing for the boy

and his gold-digger & wife. The tragedy of this chapter of our lives is that what started out as a benevolent enterprise should have ended in estrangement and separation.

"It is pathetic to think of wifey living a narrow, embittered life in uncongenial surroundings when she might share with me the ~~idea~~ ideal life we had both planned to live when the children grew up. I am out here free from the petty jealousies and competition of official life and from the noise and turmoil of cities, living in a beautiful spot and surrounded by beautiful scenery, with my beloved flowers, birds, books, music, the valley, the mountains, the sky by day and by night, the changing seasons, old friends and new friends, and most interesting neighbors. After my building and planting plans are more nearly completed I may find time to write--mainly for my own diversion, of course. Many speaking engagements, the many diverse and interesting things needing attention, plans for the future, visions of what things may be made to look like in the years to come, and the constant perception and appreciation of the beauty I see everywhere and in everything, keep me fully occupied so that both days and nights seem too short.

"This week the forest trees awoke from their winter's sleep with a sudden flush of delicate pink, red and green, and over night the buds burst into leaf; the magnificent flowering Japanese cherries are now in bloom, the apple trees are in full blossom, there are banks of white and purple lilacs, near one of the houses is a great mass of purple wistaria, the narcissi still linger, along with some gorgeous tulips, ~~with~~ violets and violas everywhere, dogwood, hawthorns, bush honeysuckle, lilies of the valley and star of Bethlehem; besides the many shy woodland wild flowers, and thousands of little plants ~~reaching~~ reaching up with tiny hands, and millions of buds bursting overnight. Yesterday the first iris and Rosa Hugonis bloomed. The robins, doves,

and many other migrating birds are back and making ready for house-keeping after their long voyage to the southland. I see rabbits almost daily, some of them only a few weeks old. I saw a woodchuck last week in the rocks and a visitor spied a fox near the house. In about two weeks the peonies will be out in all their glory of color and fragrance and from then on there will be a succession of bloom until old Jack Frost pays us his first visit in autumn.

"I hope that even yet you and your husband may have an opportunity to visit this country and that I may have the pleasure of entertaining you at Sunny Hill. I hope also that you will continue to write to me from time to time when you feel in the mood. Wishing also that fate may deal kindly with you and that we may meet again, I am

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook."

"P.S.--I inclose some photographs of snow scenes here taken last March thinking they may be of interest to you. It is hard to realize that in less than eight weeks such a change has been wrought in the appearance of Sunny Hill."

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4460

Wednesday, 13 May, S.H.; showers and cool. Electricians finished wiring the Whippoorwill. I arranged lumber in a shed. Sister and I went to Braddock Heights for dahlias and then to Frederick for groceries. Mr. Hankey, a radio expert, called with two companions to discuss the question of establishing an amateur radio station on Observatory Hill.

Thursday, 14 May, S.H.; showers and cold. Took mother and sister to town for some shopping. Lewis took flowers to the hotel and hauled out cinders for the driveway. Billie working on the schoolhouse lot fence. Electricians wiring the Cricket House. Mr. Shires came out from the hotel for some more flowers.

Friday, 15 May, S.H.; clear and warm. Lewis hauled out cinders. Billie and I hauled out the school seats and placed them about the fields. Cleaned out one of the sheds and hauled old pieces of lumber to woodpile. The linemen stringing wire from public road to the buildings.

Saturday, 16 May, S.H.; lovely day. I took flowers to the hotel; sister ironing; Lewis hauling cinders and plowing; mother moving her art material into upper shed room. I had intended to use this room as a carpenter shop; sister wanted it for a sewing room; but mother took possession first. I transplanted some plants and in the afternoon took a long nap. Found that I tired easily from physical exertion of any kind.

Monday, 18 May; cloudy and cold. Electricity, water, and radio turned on in late afternoon. Planted gladioli, Japanese iris, and dahlias; harrowed Observatory Hill and schoolhouse grounds, and cultivated vegetable garden. We were delighted with the electric lights and the radio.

Tuesday, 19 May; cloudy and hot. Received blank application for retirement from the government service. Disbudding peonies, with

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4461

interruptions from the electricians. Had George Kintz whitewashing, at which he was said to be an artist. Others plowing and harrowing.

Wednesday, 20 May; warm and windy. Finished disbudding peonies which were looking poorly because of the drouth last year. Lewis brought out soybean and Sudan grass seed and started planting Observatory Hill.

Thursday, 21 May; light rain last night and this morning. Cleaned out cellar and fixing rain spout on barn. Took flowers to the hotel and did some shopping. Brought out screens for the windows and put them on.

Friday, 22 May; pleasant day. Lewis sowing Sudan grass. Sister, Elizabeth, and I hoeing peonies at lower Sunny Hill. Afternoon we cut flowers. The electricians finished their work after being around for three weeks.

Saturday, 23 May; ~~very~~ very cold. Had the fires going. All day working at miscellaneous jobs. Took flowers to the hotel. Eunice and Charlie out in the evening.

Sunday, 24 May; cloudy and cold. Cleaned out the Whippoorwill to be ready for peonies. Worked on the combination lock of a small new safe I had purchased from a mail order house. The lock would not function. In the afternoon sister, Eunice, and Charlie, went to Winworth. I took a nap. Peonies full of buds but no sign of color. Iris blooming nicely.

Monday, 25 May; cloudy and cold with showers. We much wanted some warm weather to open the peony buds by Decoration Day, the great day for peonies. In the forenoon Lewis and Billie fitting the new set of harness on the team. In the afternoon they hauled some wood. I repaired covers to the cisterns. Physically exhausted and took a long nap in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 26 May; clear and warm. Took flowers to the hotel.

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4462

Rest of day I spent lying down with a feeling of great lassitude and a strained knee.

Wednesday, 27 May; clear and pleasant. Lewis and Billie working in the corn field. Sister and Elizabeth cleaning up Winworth. Many telephone calls about peonies and still uncertain whether there would be any bloom by the 30th.

Thursday, 28 May; clear and hot. Lewis and Billie working ~~not~~ mother's corn. Sister and Elizabeth hoeing. I helped about. A number of visitors out to see peonies and were disappointed.

Friday, 29 May; cloudy and hot. Lewis finished plowing the corn. Billie cultivating the narcissus. Sister and I picking scattering peonies. Took some to the hotel. Had visitors and sold sixteen dozen at 75 cents. Put an advertisement in the papers announcing that the peonies were opening. Did not know until the afternoon whether we would have any.

Saturday, 30 May; very hot in the forenoon, and then a drop of 30 degrees in the afternoon. With mother took flowers to the hotel, made some deliveries to customers, and then decorated father's grave at the cemetery. Excessively hot in the middle of the day and the peonies opened fast. Eunice and Charlie out in the afternoon. Sold over sixteen dollars worth of peonies to callers. Some of the blossoms were very beautiful. In the evening Eunice and Charlie gave us some good music on the violin and piano.

Sunday, 31 May; warm forenoon, cold afternoon. Took peonies to town and brought out ice. Had a few visitors and sold some flowers. Sister, Elizabeth, and Mrs. Phelps picked 75 dozen peony buds. Tobe Miss and family made us a long visit in the afternoon. Thelma, Mr. Price, Otis, and Ethel, were out for the first time since I moved. They were rather awkward and embarrassed. I did not invite them to stay to supper. They volunteered no information about wife or themselves.

(1931, May, S.H.)

E--4463

and I refrained from questioning them. I showed them the remodeled Sunny Hill House and the Whippoorwill and they were evidently impressed by the changes that had been made and the comforts and conveniences that had been provided.

Monday, 1 June; light rain last night and this forenoon. Lewis hauling cinders for the driveway. So cold that I started the fires again. Took Sister Nellie to town for groceries. I collected \$28 from the hotel for flowers last month. Saw the electric people about changing the fixtures in my bedroom. My bank balance running low because the improvements at both farms and the purchase of tools, materials, seeds and plants, had cost more than I estimated. Paid sister for her services against her protest. She said she wanted neither wages nor salary, only my share of the groceries and living expenses.

(Wife, 1 June, brown folder)

1 June 1931.

"Dear Wifey:

"I inclose monthly check for \$50.00.

"The season is still two weeks late here and the peonies did not begin to open until yesterday morning, too late to ship or sell for Memorial Day.

"Last week I had a few minutes to unpack some more of my books and pictures and came across the music and photographs that you asked for. I sent them the next day by parcel post and hope they reached you all right.

"The young folks were out this afternoon and seemed rather awkward and embarrassed--as they have reason to be. As usual they volunteered no information. I questioned Mr. Price and learned that he has rented a small house on M Street and that Otis and Ethel will live with him.

"I wonder if you have succeeded in obtaining confidential employment and whether you are entirely happy in your independence and surroundings.

"I wish you could see the peonies. They are lovely.

"Hope you keep well and happy.

Lee.

(1931, ~~Ma~~ June, S.H.)

E--4464

Tuesday, W 2 June; clear, cool, beautiful day. Drove to Washington with peonies and brought Eunice back with me. Lewis went to town for fertilizer and a new lawnmower. In the afternoon he hauled hay up from Winworth. Sister and helpers cutting and tying peonies. I was having trouble with a stiff right knee.

Wednesday, 3 June; clear and pleasant. Took peonies to Washington. A mile east of Frederick the pickup stopped and had to be towed back to a garage. The terminals of the battery had burned out and I had to have another battery installed which caused me to lose nearly two hours. At the wholesaler's in Washington I found there was a glut in peonies and other flowers. My own were put into cold storage and the manager asked me to call up before bringing in any more next Friday. The manager said he had sent two truck loads of peonies to Baltimore that morning, so there was no use in shipping to that point.

On the way back I picked up a man at Gaithersburg on his way to his home in Hagerstown. He said he had been away for a year on an oil tank steamer plying between San Diego and Pennsylvania.

Lewis and Billie sowing soybeans in the locust field at the lower place and fertilizer on the narcissus field at upper place. Eunice took mother to town in the forenoon where they had luncheon and went to a picture show. Sister picked some more peonies. Had a number of visitors in the afternoon who bought some flowers and ordered some plants.

Thursday, 4 June; clear and hot. Remained in the house most of the day to answer telephone calls about peonies. Checked up my bank accounts. Lewis hauled some rough lumber I had purchased from Mrs. George Masser and stored it in the barn. More visitors came out to see the display of peonies. I was extremely tired in the evening.

Friday, 5 June; showers in the morning, fair rest of day.

Saturday, 6 June; clear and pleasant. Early in the morning I took a lot of peonies in to Dora Masser for sale on the streets of Frederick. Lewis followed with a truck load for the same purpose. I took flowers to the hotel and to some customers. In the afternoon I waited on customers who came out to Sunny Hill. We were kept busy with visitors until sunset. Sister got a hard fall from stepping on a box that overturned.

Sunday, 7 June; heavy fog, followed by sunshine and a lovely breeze, a heavy rain in the late afternoon, and a drop of 20 degrees in temperature. Took flowers to hotel in early morning. Sister and I staked a lot of plants ordered by customers. We had a nice chicken dinner which had been prepared in expectation of a visit from the Gages whom I had invited out from Washington, but they did not come. After dinner Charlie and Eunice went to Winworth to pack music and other things to be brought up the following week. Tobe Miss and Lewis Masser came out in the afternoon with their families. Lewis's children had grown so that I did not recognize them. Many visitors came out to see the peonies, twenty or more at a time. Sister Nellie very busy waiting on them. I was not sorry when the rain sent them away. ^{One of} ~~Nearly/ALL~~ the visitors was extremely interested in hearing about Palestine and I had difficulty in getting rid of him. The late peonies were just right to be picked but we could not get them because of the swarm of visitors, and the rain spoiled them. We had a fine strawberry shortcake for supper. Eunice and Charlie gave us some good music. Sunny Hill and the valley were very beautiful today, especially after the rain had freshened up everything.

Monday, 8 June; fair and cool. Vegetation growing rapidly. Took peonies to customers in Frederick. Collected about \$12 from these sales and \$26.40 from Dora Masser. In the afternoon I put screens in the Whippoorwill windows and did a number of odd jobs.

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Sister and Elizabeth picked 275 dozen peonies for shipment. Cherries beginning to turn. In the evening I swatted a lot of flies in the house. I did this every evening in summer. They came from the barnlot and flew into the house every time a screen door was opened. Sunny Hill was lovely and the valley beautiful today.

Tuesday, 9 June; clear and cold. Took a load of peonies to Washington and found the store blocked with flowers. The manager asked me not to bring any more because they could not be sold. He showed me a lot of greenhouse flowers that would have to be thrown away.

I took some peonies to wife. I was admitted by Mrs. Stebbens who said that wife was not up yet. She returned saying that wife would be up in a few minutes. She said, "You know she is a dear little woman, but we" (she and her sister Miss Jenkins) "think it is better to be apart." I waited nearly half an hour in a little dark stuffy reception hall until wife appeared. She looked rather pathetic, a little thinner than normal, and her face showed signs of suffering. She expressed regret when I informed her that the peonies were not selling well, but she did not ask a single question or show the slightest interest in Sunny Hill, myself, or the family, and volunteered no information about herself. I asked if she had suffered any attacks such as she had last year and she said she had one but it did not amount to much. I said that Mrs. Stebbens had told me they were about to move, but not when or where. Wife said they would move the 15th. I asked if she had found a room for herself. She said she was going to take rooms with Otis and Ethel. I expressed regret, saying that it would be very disagreeable at times. She smiled, shook her head, and refused to talk about family matters. It was embarrassing and I could see that the interview was something of a strain upon her. So I took her in my arms, kissed her several times, and said good bye. Her voice broke a little, but she was obdurate. This visit was

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a disappointment to me and I felt very sad over it. Clearly the wife was unhappy. The children had behaved so badly that I did not wish to see them again. For these reasons I decided not to call on my wife again so long as she lived with them.

In the afternoon I took a nap and then made a washstand for my room out of a pine box. A representative of the Potomac Edison came out and tried to sell me a frigidair. He had his wife with him. She said she had spent two months in the City of Mexico. I took them ~~ab-~~ about the place. Then some other visitors came. After they left I took the finished washstand into my room. I gave an oak stand and a Remington typewriter to sister. After supper I mowed some of the lawns.

Wednesday; cloudy and cold. Mowed some more lawns. The mail-carrier brought out some wall paper. I took the paper to town to have the edges trimmed but could find no one to do it, so I had to bring it back and mother and I trimmed it with shears. Had visitors in the afternoon. Eunice came out on the bus and Lewis brought her out from Frederick. Had the little Jersey cow on the terrace. Tied Mollie Mula at the end of the orchard and she rubbed all the bark off of a Chinese pear tree so that I had to cut it down. A beautiful day.

Thursday, 11 June; clear and pleasant. Weeds beginning to grow rapidly. Sister Nellie and helpers papering Winworth. I took flowers to the hotel. Also left a large bouquet of peonies for Isabel Masser who was to graduate from highschool. Had the pickup put in order at a garage and while waiting had a haircut and did some shopping. On the way out I left some paper at Winworth and brought up some jars that had been used for wine. Found one jar full of wine, which was an unexpected source of satisfaction. In the afternoon I picked some peonies and waited upon some visitors.

Friday, 12 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and

a disappointment to me and I left very early. Clearly the
 wife was unhappy. The children had behaved so badly that I did not
 wish to see them again. For these reasons I decided not to call
 on my wife again so long as she lived with them.

In the afternoon I took a nap and then went to a restaurant for my
 room out of a pine box. A representative of the Potomac Edison came
 out and tried to sell me a refrigerator. He had his wife with him. She
 said she had spent two months in the City of Mexico. I took them to
 about the place. Then some other visitors came. After they left I
 took the finished restaurant into my room. I gave an oak stand and a
 Remington typewriter to sister. After supper I wrote some of the
 letters.

Wednesday; cloudy and cold. Snow some more letters. The mail
 carrier brought out some wall paper. I took the paper to town to have
 the edges trimmed but could find no one to do it, so I had to trim
 it back and mother and I trimmed it with shears. The visitors in the
 afternoon. Alice came out on the bus and Lewis brought her out from
 Frederick. Had the little Perry cow on the terrace. Fred told me
 at the end of the orchard and she rubbed all the back off of a Chinese
 pear tree so that I had to cut it down. A beautiful day.

Thursday, 11 June; clear and pleasant. Woods beginning to
 grow rapidly. Sister Nellie and Nelsons gathered Winthrop. I took
 flowers to the hotel. Also left a large bouquet of geraniums for Isabel
 Benson who was to propagate from Winthrop. Had the picnic and in even-
 ing at a garage and while waiting had a haircut and did some shopping.
 On the way out I left some paper at Alworth and brought up some jars
 that had been used for wine. Found one jar full of wine, which was
 an unexpected source of satisfaction. In the afternoon I picked some
 geraniums and waited upon some visitors.

Friday, 12 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to Winthrop and

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did some shopping. Spent the afternoon ²waiting on visitors. The Philadelphus was in full bloom and very pretty. I was thoroughly disgusted with taking orders for peony roots. I had advertised them for sale with the thought that I could perhaps get enough orders to make it pay and dispose of some of the surplus stock. The result was that many visitors asked for them. Of course, the roots could not be dug until the plants became dormant in the autumn. That meant that before the season opened I had to stake and number each row at each end. Then when a customer came I had to take a basket full of stakes, labels, a notebook and a pencil, and accompany the prospective customer back and forth over the field while he or she made a selection. Sometimes they only wanted one or two and yet would take a full half hour or more to make a selection and ask questions. When the selection was made I had to number and write the name on a stake and drive it into the ground next the plant selected; and then make a record of the color of the plant, the number of the stake, the number of the row, and the name and address of the customer. All this took time and was very annoying. This was only half the story, because in the fall I would have to list and index all the orders, have the plants identified, dug, and sorted out, and then notify the customers by letter to call for them, and perhaps have to send them a bill. As the peony season drew to a close I realized that I could not make wages at this kind of work, which I disliked very much.

Saturday, 13 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and made deliveries to customers and did some shopping. Cherries ripening fast. Had a number of visitors. A customer in Hagerstown telephoned she wanted forty dozen for a house^hparty and we were expecting her all the afternoon. She did not come bu^t telephoned she was sending a man for them. He did not come until 9 p.m.

Sunday, 14 June; a dull gray day. Took flowers to the hotel,

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E--4469

got some groceries, did some odd jobs, wrote some letters, and waited upon visitors. In the late afternoon Dr. Jones and his family came out from Washington, parked their car and scattered, and afterwards they came to the house. Sister, Eunice, and Charlie spent the day at Winworth.

Monday, 15 June; cloudy and warm. I took the day off and slept. In the late afternoon had a bath, dressed in tuxedo, and in the evening took Sister Nellie with me to the Barbara Fritche Restaurant where we were guests of the Zonta Club. After supper I gave an informal reminiscient talk on Europe. We got away at 8.30 p.m. and brought some ice cream out for mother. Eunice and Charlie worked about the place during the day and in the evening played some good music. Peonies finished, petunias blooming, as well as foxgloves, mock orange, and marigolds.

Tuesday, 16 June; cloudy, light showers, barely enough to lay the dust, and very cool. Took flowers to the hotel and then to a hardware store where I had left the little safe to have the lock fixed. The locksmith said it was all right, but when he tried to demonstrate it would not work, so I had to leave it for further trial. Mr. and Mrs. Castle moved into Winworth as tenants. He was an invalid and ~~not~~ not expected to live. I had a nap in the afternoon and then picked bugs off the potato plants. Lewis sowed soybeans in the narcissus patch. In the ^{evening} ~~afternoon~~ took mother and sister to see a picture show in Frederick.

Wednesday, 17 June; clear and pleasant. I did not sleep well and rested all the forenoon. The valley looked especially beautiful in the morning. I went to the Francis Scott Key Hotel at noon as guest of the Rotary Club and after luncheon gave them a travel talk. There was hearty applause and several members ^{were} introduced themselves and expressed themselves as greatly pleased afterwards.

(1931, June, S.H.)

E--4470

However, these talks, while they make friends, involve a certain amount of preparation, loss of time, and strain and after this one I felt inclined to decline future invitations. I realized that such talks brought me in contact with leading citizens of the county and through them I made acquaintances and friends.

After returning to Sunny Hill I cut some weeds. Beginning to be worried about money matters. A plumber was out to adjust the electric pump. Had him clean out the underground pipe leading to a cistern near the kitchen door. He took out two tops of fruit jars and a quantity of small stone that little Richard Masser had dropped in the opening.

Thursday, 18 June; clear^u and pleasant. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out the little safe with its combination lock so adjusted that it could be opened and closed. In the afternoon Mrs. Bizer, a neighbor, telephoned that sister's cow was in her pasture. Lewis and I went down to get the cow. We examined the division fence but could find no opening. An agent for the frigidair was out to see me. Also several other visitors. Sister and Elizabeth cleaning out the cellar at Winworth. Worrying about finances. The cherries looked pretty on the tree. Roses blooming freely and many of the perennials coming into bloom.

Friday, 19 June; clear and hot. Took mother to town for treatment by a chiropodist. Returning, I hoe^d a row in the garden and ~~ten~~ took a notebook and made an inventory of the peony plants for which I had received orders. After supper I picked some cherries and mowed one of the lawns. As I finished Mr. and Mrs. Pangborn and one other drove up from Hagerstown. They were very nice people. Some of the neighbors were up today picking cherries on shares.

Saturday, 20 June; clear and hot. Took mother to Frederick for another treatment by the chiropodist. Sister and I spent the

(1931, June, S.H.)

E--4471

afternoon stoning cherries for making wine. Eunice and Charlie came out late in the afternoon and he mowed some of the lawn. We had our first watermelon of the season. It was a disappointment. Had some visitors in the afternoon. ~~Itxxx~~ In the evening I announced to mother and sister that it had become evident to me that I was unfitted by age, physical weakness, and lifelong habits, for manual labor; that I had tried it with so little accomplished and was so exhausted after each attempt, that I had reached the conclusion that it was useless to keep on trying and that I would better spend my time in office work at the Whippoorwill. Both readily agreed that this was a wise decision. This was not an easy decision to reach because I saw so much to be done about the place and the temptation was strong to try to do ~~some~~ of it myself, but I accomplished so little and was so punished by physical exhaustion and mental disappointment and depression that I could not think of continuing.

Sunday, 21 June; clear and hot. I cleaned ~~x~~ various things and filled the vases in the house with flowers. Had a long nap after luncheon. Then Charlie and I drove down to Winworth, he to measure for screen doors and I to visit with Mr. Eastle. He told me a good deal about himself and seemed to enjoy having some one to talk to. The evening was very pleasant.

Monday, 22 June; partly cloudy. The country badly in need^e of rain. Took the battery of the small radio to town to be recharged and did some shopping. On returning I filed some papers in the Cubby Hole, as I had come to call my small study next to the library in the Whippoorwill. Counted the hills in one of the peony patches. Helped sister pick some cherries. Elizabeth and her children picking cherries also. Wheat ripening and corn about twelve inches high.

Tuesday, 23 June; clear and hot forenoon, light showers afternoon. I spent most of the day in the Cubby Hole sorting papers and writing

(1931, June, S.H.)

E--4472

letters. Among the papers ~~on my desk~~ I found a sealed government envelope which I opened without looking at the address because it was exactly like dozens of others that had accumulated on the desk. I found that it contained a Treasury check in the name of another person. I at once transmitted it to the local postmaster with a letter explaining the circumstances. The Potomac Edison employees came out to put up reflectors on the outside lights and to change the fixtures in the Whippoorwill. Sister putting up cherries, and I seeded some for wine. In the afternoon I had mother come over to the Whippoorwill and I played some of her favorite records on the phonograph.

Wednesday, 24 June; cloudy morning, clear and hot afternoon. I drove to Washington in the forenoon and spent a few minutes with Eunice. Then I called at the Veterans Bureau and saw a section chief who said a letter had just been mailed to me regarding the difference between a straight annuity and a maximum annuity. I had applied for the "maximum," but in view of the small difference and to facilitate matters I signed a new application for a "straight." The section chief explained that the annuity was based on thirty years service and retirement at seventy, but because I was retiring at sixty-two I could be granted only two-thirds of the maximum rate, which would be about \$808.24 a year, or \$67.43 a month, instead of \$1,200 a year, which was the maximum, although my service was longer and my salary much higher than the average. He said the application was in proper form, my record was absolutely clear, and the claim would probably be granted in the near future.

I called on the real estate agent~~s~~ with regard to delay in payment of rental of the town house. He said that a summons had been ~~served~~ served on the tenant but if the rent was paid before the expiration of the month the tenant could not be dispossessed.

(1931, June, S.H.)

E--4473

I stopped at the Cosmos Club for awhile to rest and look over the current magazines. Had luncheon at Childs on the Avenue. At 2 p.m. I went to the Gayety and saw a pretty girl show. There *were* about fifteen pretty girls in the chorus that danced with bare legs. Three of the leading ones sang and danced and took off their garments and posed very prettily. As usual I left at the first intermission. On the way back I bought half a dozen fly traps for Sunny Hill and some second hand books. I left at 4.30 p.m. and stopped in Frederick for some canteloupes, and reached home at 6 p.m. En route I saw some fields of wheat that had been cut.

Thursday, 25 June; a pleasant day. Took flowers to the hotel and brought our a screen door and some groceries. Had a nice luncheon of fried chicken and cherry pie. Then slept until 4 p.m. Hung the screen door on the Whippoorwill. After supper transferred ten large jars of cherry mash to the Cricket House basement. Began thinking about securing a loan on the town house to relieve financial embarrassment.

Friday, 26 June; cool morning, hot afternoon, followed by thunder showers. Wrote some letters in the morning and after returning from the mail box, a third of a mile distant, picked some fine Tartarian cherries. The valley and woods were beautiful, a gentle breeze was blowing, I was all alone, and had a good view of the Sunny Hill buildings, shrubbery and flowers. Mother made a cherry cobbler for luncheon. Tied Mollie ^aMulle on Observatory Hill to graze. An approaching shower reminded me to fix the gutter back of the kitchen and I finished it just as the rain began to fall. The flurry came with a rush of wind and sheets of rain. Sister was at Winworth so I went after her in the sedan. In the evening spent some time in the Whippoorwill reading and writing. Had in mind proposing to the News-Post of Frederick a weekly letter entitled "Sunny Hill Notes,"

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E--4474

but hesitated to undertake the obligation.

Saturday, 27 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and did some shopping. Pulled some weeds in the iris patch. In the afternoon mowed some lawns. Mr. Hankey was out to examine the radios. He said the battery set was in bad shape and he thought he could find a better one to exchange for it. Eunice ^mcame over in the afternoon and was greatly exercised because she had found out that Charlie was sending money to his paramour who was then living in a small town in Pennsylvania, and that he admitted it saying that the woman claimed to have had a baby by him and he felt under obligations to help support it. Also she reported that she had met Miss Jenkins who said she had never realised what sort of a woman my wife was and what I had put up with; that wife had insisted on their taking the apartment together and then had suddenly withdrawn, leaving her to pay the rent. Also she said that the people who owned the little store opposite our house told her they always understood my wife had a private fortune of her own and was independent of her husband. And so it goes; one story after another; and none of them true.

Sunday, 28 June; clear and hot. Took some beautiful flowers to the hotel, roses, ^riris, etc. I took mother along for the ride. The wheat was ripening and the corn growing fast. The lanes were pretty with their borders of yarrow, chickory, and timothy. Read the papers. Had a nice luncheon and a long nap afterwards. Had a nice supper with raspberries and cream. Eunice and Charlie gave us some good music after supper.

Monday, 29 June; pleasant day. Went to town for some material with which to spray the potatoes. In the afternoon I hitched up the little mule and plowed the vegetable garden. Had some good radio music in the evening. Some days it is wonderful and on others horrible because of static.

(1931, June, S.H.)

E--4475

Tuesday, 30 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and collected \$44 for the month. Bought some ice and groceries. In the mail was a letter from Mrs. Sauter, my former secretary in Rome, from a place in Germany; also one from the editor of La Hacienda, asking if I would consider acting as associate editor. After a nap I took Mollie Mula and plowed the iris in front of the house. It was excessively hot and I perspired freely, wetting my clothes through and getting myself covered with dust from the dry ground. Then had a cold bath and a change of clothing. After supper I put up some window shades in the shed studio for mother. Sister Nellie strained the cherry mash and got twenty-five gallons of wine.

Wednesday, 1 July; clear and hot. Spent most of the day writing letters. Received check for the June and July rent from the real/estate agent. In the afternoon we had a severe electrical storm following oppressive heat. The electric lights were put out of commission.

(La Hacienda, 1 July, brown folder. ✓)

(Wife, same. ✓)

Thursday, 26 June; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and collected 24 for the month. Found some ice and groceries.

In the wall was a letter from Mrs. Dutton, my former secretary in

home, from a place in Germany; also one from the editor of the Hawaiian

asking if I would consider acting as associate editor. After a day

I took Nellie to the beach and played the life in front of the house. It was

exceedingly hot and I perspired freely, wetting my clothes through

and getting myself covered with dust from the dry ground. Then had

a cold bath and a change of clothing. After supper I put up some

window shades in the shed studio for mother. Sister Nellie attended

the cherry man and got twenty-five gallons of wine.

Wednesday, 2 July; clear and hot. Spent most of the day

writing letters. Received check for the June and July rent from the

real estate agent. In the afternoon we had a severe electrical storm

following oppressive heat. The electric lights were put out of com-

munion.

Friday, 3 July, heavy rain.

(Sister Nellie)

1 July 1931.

Mr. Albro C. Gaylor,
Vice President, La Hacienda,
20 Vesey Street,
New York, N.Y.

"Dear Mr. Gaylor:

"Your inquiry of June 29 relative to a possible connection with La Hacienda in an editorial capacity comes at an opportune time and interests me. After nearly thirty-eight years of public service, including ten years as Chief of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, two years as organizer and Associate Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, two years with the Argentine Government, and five years with the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and last year as Assistant to the Director of Scientific Work, U.S. Department of Agriculture, I retired from the service early this year and came out to live on my farm on Catoctin Mountain near Frederick, Md.

"Since coming to the farm I have been extremely busy renovating the farm, altering buildings, installing modern conveniences, planting, and repairing some of the damage done by the exceptional drouth of 1929-30. However, now that this preliminary work is either accomplished or well under way I find my thoughts reverting more and more to the highly interesting international situation in which I am deeply interested; also the impulse to write is recurring from time to time. That is why your suggestion is both opportune and interesting to me.

"As to my Latin-American experience: From January, 1923, to July, 1924, inclusive, I was employed by the Argentine Government as Comisionado en economia rural y estadistica to reorganize its statistical service and serve as technical adviser in its Department of Agriculture (salary \$15,000). My headquarters were at Buenos Aires and I visited nearly every province. From August to October, 1924, inclusive, I visited Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil for the purpose of making an agricultural survey for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, some of the results of which were published in a bulletin after my return to Washington.

On the return trip I spent several days in Chile and Peru. Then, in the course of my travel for the International Institute of Agriculture in connection with the 1930 World Census Project, I visited the capitals, studied the agriculture, and saw something of the peoples of all the Latin-American countries--except Bolivia--including the West Indies. Needless to say, also, I visited the mother countries, Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, and other Mediterranean countries. My last official connection with Latin American countries was in organizing the work of the Inter American Conference on Agriculture in 1930. I read the Latin languages almost as readily as English. The sources of information in Washington are available to me, I am especially familiar with the organization, work and scientific personnel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and am on the friendliest terms with the officials of the Pan American Union.

"I have written this long letter about myself solely to give you an opportunity to judge whether my rather unique experience and contacts might be of real service in your publication. If you feel that I can be of service, please suggest as definitely as you can just what you have in mind and about what compensation you think such service would justify if satisfactory.

"If you wish a personal interview I can meet you at your convenience at the Cosmos Club in Washington, or your office in New York; or if you would like to see some fine farming country and a beautiful landscape spend a day with me at Sunny Hill on Catoctin Mountain overlooking the beautiful Frederick valley.

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook."

1 July 1931.

"Dear Nellie:

"I inclose check for \$35.00 for July. Sorry it cannot be more, but I am running extremely short as a result of no salary since last December, heavy expenses since, including taxes and insurance, a poor narcissus crop, and a moderate peony crop that came in too late for May 30 and could not be sold on a glutted market. Also there were additional repairs to 1026 and the tenant defaulted on the June rent. Unless I succeed in supplementing the farm income (or deficit) it will probably be necessary to take out a loan on 1026. This shortage of funds and the embarrassment resulting therefrom causes me to wonder sometimes why I should continue to contribute to the support of a wife after a year of such bitter enmity and opposition, followed by desertion, to enable her to dedicate her life to an unworthy adopted son. It would seem that he, the beneficiary, should now assume the obligation. Can you blame me for having such thoughts?

"I hope you keep well and are happy in the realization of your dreams.

"Sincerely,

"L.M.E."

(1931, July, S.H.)

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Thursday, 2 July; fair and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and did some shopping. After a nap in the afternoon I picked some dewberries and mowed the lawns. Lewis and helper working at odd jobs. Had Mr. Hankey out to fix the battery radio.

Friday, 3 July; partly cloudy and not so hot. I cut and mowed weeds. Lewis and Billie hauling in Winworth oats. Eunice and Charlie out for supper. Vegetation luxuriant and place looks well.

Saturday, 4 July; partly cloudy and cooler. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out groceries. Charlie making a platform back of kitchen door. I helped plane some of the planks and became very tired. Took a long nap. A very quiet day. First time in many years wife and children were not with me, except while I was abroad. In the evening the roads out of Frederick were strung with lights of automobiles. The valley looked like an arm of the sea with Frederick as a port town.

Sunday, 5 July; cloudy with pleasant breeze. Took mother with me to town to deliver flowers to the hotel. Country looking beautiful. Most of the wheat was in the shock. Had a nice chicken dinner. In the evening we had a delicious dewberry pie. Later we had a nice watermelon.

Monday, 6 July; hot with gentle rain in the afternoon. Wrote some letters, one to the real/~~e~~state agents asking for a loan on the town house, one to Mrs. Loomis, lecturer for the Potomac Grange, declining to give a travel talk at a grange meeting in Fairfax County, Va. Went to town for a screen door to the shed studio and hung it for mother. After supper helped Sister Nellie strain the cherry wine. Was disappointed at not receiving any answer to my application for retirement annuity.

Tuesday, 7 July; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and brought back groceries. Mowed weeds about the place. Settled with the

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4477

tenant. He announced that he had bought a small place near Feagaville and would move the first of September. He said that to make apple cider all that was necessary was to put the juice in and open barrel and let it stand until it ferments and then close it. To make wine he put two bushels of grapes in a clean barrel, adds three pounds of sugar per gallon, and add water or cideær, cider being best to make the wine stronger. I was much relieved to learn that he was going because he had the reputation of being a boot-legger and he had many disreputable looking callers at all hours.

Wednesday, 8 July; clear and hot. Mowed around the grape arbor and sprayed the vines. Also sprayed the poultry house. Perspired profusely and before supper took a cold bath and changed to linen clothes. Spent an hour or more in the Whippoorwill playing the phonograph records many of which I had with me on my travels. Brought in some of the new cherry wine. I did not like the taste, but it was strong enough to serve as wine. It was a very hot day although there was some breeze. Appreciated the privilege of not having visitors. Sister Nellie went to town and brought out a water melon. Mother painting in the shed studio.

Thursday, 9 July; clear and hot with electrical storm and light showers in late afternoon. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out groceries. Spent the rest of the day plowing gardens with the mule. Sister Nellie found an envelope by the driveway containing my certificate of annuity and check for June amounting to \$67.44. The envelope must have dropped out of the bundle of mail when it was brought up from the mail box, but it seemed curious that it should have been this particular envelope only. I had been expecting it, so much so that I had refrained from making another special trip to Washington to inquire about it. Small as the amount was I felt much gratified, because it was something sure, something, that I

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4478

could count on, something guaranteed by the government, and it would go on as long as I lived. I had begun to realize that in all probability I would never be able to make enough from the two farms to pay the cost of hired labor and upkeep. I was worried because my bank balance was getting low and income so far was not enough to pay for ordinary farm labor. Now, I could plan to put the farms in grass next year and cut out farm labor; let the place grow up in weeds if necessary to avoid expense of care and cultivation; and with this assured income and no rent to pay it would almost keep us, provided the rent for the town house was enough to take care of taxes and insurance. One cause of my financial worry was the fact that the Potomac Edison Company would not present their bill or tell me how much I owed them for the electrical installations.

Friday, 10 July; clear and pleasant. Mowed some grass and weeds on Observatory Hill and made a box with shelves for shoes and painted it. On the strength of my annuity I signed a contract for a frigidair and it was brought out and set up. After supper accompanied sister to Winworth on a visit to the Castles. Mr. Castle seemed very cheerful in spite of his precarious condition. His wife talked incessantly of her experience as a nurse during the war.

Saturday, 11 July; clear and pleasant. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out groceries. Did various odd jobs and plowed the garden with Mollie Mula. She was a comical animal and always on the look out for a bite of green. Yesterday she grabbed a mouthful of poison sumac leaves but dropped them instantly. The electric men were out to connect up the frigidair. Sister was very enthusiastic about it. Had an argument with mother and sister in the morning when I expressed surprise at the amount of bran we were buying and feeding to the cows and chickens. We were paying about fifteen dollars a month for feed and I thought the cows and chickens could forage for themselves in mid-summer, as our cows and chickens did when we lived in Texas.

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4479

I suggested that it would really be cheaper to sell the cows and chickens and buy our dairy products and poultry as we needed them and cut out all the work and trouble of feeding, milking, and churning. This brought a protest from both a mother and sister who were very fond of cream and butter. Three years later they had come around to my point of view.

The radio man came out in the afternoon and fixed the battery radio in the Whippoorwill. Eunice wrote that she had started taking lessons in a beauty shop with the idea of opening one herself as soon as she learned the business.

Corn was growing nicely and beginning to tassel.

Sunday, 12 July; a beautiful summer day. Before breakfast I took the little Jersey cow down to the hillside pasture. She followed me like a dog. When I brought her back in the late afternoon she was pestered with flies. As we passed a great Forsythia bush she plunged wildly into it to rid herself of her enemies.

I took mother with me to deliver flowers to the hotel. The country lanes were bright with wild flowers. Had a quiet day reading, sleeping, sipping wine, and smoking. Eunice made a new dress for mother. Charlie made some shelves for the kitchen. I got out a white bicycle suit that had been packed away for thirty years. The trousers were too short and then I remembered they had shrunk the last time I had them laundered.

Monday, 13 July, S.H.; a beautiful summer day. The atmosphere was clear and the valley beautiful. Leslie Masser's barn burned down. It was thought that it was set afire by his little boy Richard. I did some hoeing and mowing. Lewis and Billie hauling in oats.

Tuesday, 14 July; clear and hot, with good breeze. Had trouble in starting the sedan. Finished plowing the gardens with the little mule. Also did some mowing.

(1931, July, S.H.

E--4480

Wednesday, 15 July, S.H.; very hot. Started to mow some weeds but suffered so much from the heat that I soon had to quit. In the afternoon went to town and had a recharged battery put in the sedan.

Thursday, 16 July; excessively hot, followed by an electrical storm in the afternoon. Had a letter from the real/estate agents saying that a loan could be made on the town house, but the signature of my wife would be required. Decided to postpone making formal application for the loan until I had tried to sell my stock of peony roots. It seemed as if I had never before perspired so freely. At the slightest exertion my clothing became saturated. To be comfortable I had to change clothing several times a day and take a cold bath every afternoon.

Friday, 17 July; oppressively hot with thunder storm in the afternoon. I was awakened from my afternoon nap by two men who operated the country road scraper who came up to tell me they would begin on our road tomorrow. Laddie, ^{Eunice's} the collie, disappeared during the day and returned in the evening much bedraggled and used up.

✓
(Longobardi, 17 July, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill, R.5, Frederick, Md.,

17 July 1931.

"Mr. Cesare Longobardi,
International Institute of Agriculture,
Rome.

"Dear Mr, Longobardi:

"You must have wondered at my long silence. If I have not written to you oftener it is not because I have not thought of you often. The fact is I have been very busy and also very uncertain as to my present and future status, so that I postponed writing to my friends until I knew more definitely what the future had in store for me.

"When I left Rome in November, 1929, I fully expected to be placed in charge of the foreign service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. When I arrived in Washington I found that Mr. Hobson had obtained the position during my absence, through a special combination of circumstances and certain connections he had established, supplemented by what in the U.S. we call 'bluff.' Mr. Olsen, Chief of the Bureau, was ill and absent for two months and his subordinates would not take the responsibility of giving me an assignment. Although Mr. Olsen owed his position indirectly to me, and although he acknowledged the efficient service I had rendered as the representative of the Bureau in the World Census Project, he finally said there was no opening in the bureau for me.

"About this time I met Dr. E. Dana Durand, whom you will remember as a delegate to the Statistical Congress, and who was then technical adviser to the Secretary of Commerce, and he suggested and recommended to the Secretary that I be made Assistant Director of the U.S. Census at \$9,000 a year. The Secretary of Commerce sent for me and our interview was entirely satisfactory, but he said that before giving me the appointment he would have to consult with the Director, Mr. Steuart. While Mr. Steuart and I have always been on friendly terms, it turned

out that he had a close personal friend who was a candidate and together they had enough political influence to secure the appointment for him.

"I then saw Dr.A.F.Woods, Director of Scientific Work in the Department of Agriculture, who was an old personal friend, and he immediately arranged to have me appointed as his assistant for a year and assigned me to organizing the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry, and Animal Industry. I put in a lot of hard work in making this conference a success, was elected its secretary general, made many friends, was highly commended in formal resolutions, and completed the editorial work and closed out the project on December 31, 1930.

"Under civil service rules the position of assistant to the Director of Scientific Work could not continue beyond December, 1930. In order to retain my civil service status I requested and was granted leave of absence without pay for six months, at the end of which period I was retired on pension for life, so that I do not have to worry about subsistence.

"Another complication that developed during my long absence, one that I dimly foresaw at the time I reluctantly accepted the assignment to the World Census Project, was that of my family. I left an affectionate devoted wife and two adopted children, a girl of 14 and a boy of 12, who up to that time had been a real joy to us and were very promising. The wife was weak and indulgent, and lacking my presence and control the two young people went wild. They ran away from school, refused to study or work, and demanded all sorts of luxuries which we could not afford but which the wife granted. The daughter contracted a secret marriage early in 1929, and the son did the same late in 1930. When I returned and attempted to bring order out of chaos and the young people within proper bounds there was trouble with them and with the wife.

"Last March I came out to Sunny Hill Farm on Catoctin Mountain near Frederick, Md., about fifty miles from Washington. The wife refused to come with me, she having become infatuated with the adopted son and preferring to live with him and his bride.

"The farm is at an elevation of about 1200 feet overlooking the beautiful Frederick Valley of which the poet Whittier wrote--

"Up from the meadows rich with corn,

Clear in the cool September morn,

The clustered spires of Frederick stand

Green-walled by the hills of Maryland.

Round about them orchards sweep,

Apple and peach-tree fruited deep,

Fair as a garden of the Lord

To the eyes of the famished rebel horde;

"The farm is isolated and entirely surrounded by rocky ledges and forest and from it I can see for a distance of thirty miles a beautiful landscape across the heart of Maryland and into the two adjoining States of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"For the first two months I was extremely busy remodeling the houses, installing electricity, a water and sewage system, constructing a good road, culling timber, planning and planting crops. As spring advanced I had the joy of watching the perennial flowering plants and shrubs that I had planted years ago come to life. I have about three acres of narcissus and these we cut and shipped to Washington and other cities near by. The field was a sheet of gold. For gathering the blossoms I employed ~~many~~ maidens ~~from~~ from the neighboring farms. Then came the glorious peonies. Unfortunately these were twenty-four hours late for Decoration Day, the 30th of May, when there is great demand for them for decorating the graves of soldiers. However, I advertised in the ~~local~~ local papers and many hundreds of people came out to see and to buy

the magnificent blooms. Since then there has been a succession of bloom and will be until the severe frosts of next autumn.

"I have the contract of supplying the Francis Scott Key Hotel in Frederick with flowers. It is a small hotel but there is no better in all Europe and it has a large tourist trade. I doubt if you realize what the automobile and good roads are doing for the people of the United States. Practically every family, poor as well as rich, has one or more of these machines, and in spite of the business depression they travel about constantly. Through this small town (about 15,000 inhabitants) several thousand automobiles pass daily and sometimes they come in processions several miles in length, bearing license tags from nearly every one of the forty-eight States, from Canada and from Mexico. By automobile I can run into Frederick in ten or fifteen minutes, or into Washington in an hour and a half. For different purposes I keep three machines, a truck for heavy hauling, a pick-up (light roadster with a carrier) for getting about quickly and carrying articles up to half a ton in weight, and a sedan for pleasure riding.

"Besides the necessary farm buildings I have three houses near each other but separated by gardens. Sunny Hill House is of the bungalow type, in which we live, and has all modern conveniences--electric lights, bathroom and toilet, hot and cold water, steam heat, and last but not least a frigidair that supplies ice and cold storage for food. Also we have a fine radio that is in touch with all stations and gives the latest news and the best music. Also daily mail service and the current magazines and newspapers. Whippoorwill Lodge, so called because the whippoorwills (a species of bird that has a peculiar mating call at night) habitually collect about it in great numbers, is a stone cabin, the lower part of which is used for storing and packing flowers for shipment, and the upper part I have fitted up as a library, office,

and sleeping quarters. In it I have a rather large collection of books, papers and records, souvenirs, piano, radio, and office equipment. It has electric lights, fans, and a large open fireplace, and as I have an unlimited supply of wood you can imagine what cheerful fires I have in cool weather. The third house is smaller and we call it the Cricket House because there have always been singing crickets in it. (If you have ever read the works of Charles Dickens you will recall his story of 'The Cricket on the Hearth.') Then there are the domestic animals; a team of large docile horses, big enough to pull heavy loads without effort; a little mule that is very intelligent and very comical; a beautiful little Jersey cow that is so gentle and affectionate that she will follow us about; a gentlemanly aristocratic collie dog; a beautiful cat that came to us from nowhere; and the orchards, forests, and meadows are full of birds and insect life. These, with kindly neighbors and friends, make up my present environment.

"So you see, Mr. Longobardi, that in spite of many disappointments, I am now happily situated amid beautiful surroundings with my books and the panoramic recollections of a long and to me a most interesting life. Following the season's activities and the readjustments made necessary by my long absence and neglect of personal affairs I expect to settle down and indulge the more or less constant desire to write.

"I neglected to state that my sister, who managed the farm during my absence, is keeping house for me, and we have with us our mother. She is getting old but is very active physically and mentally, and her principal joy in life is the painting of flower pictures--which perhaps accounts for my innate love of all things beautiful. Mother and sister own farms in the neighborhood which are nominally under my management. My niece, a violinist, and her husband, a pianist, both professional musicians, spend their week ends with us. They have a fine collection of music here (about 3,000 pieces) and excellent instru-

ments, and you can imagine what a feast of music we have every week in the evening as we swing in our hammocks and rocking chairs on the broad veranda overlooking the valley.

"I have written all this--mostly personal--because I ~~do~~ felt that you would be interested in knowing how I am situated and in getting glimpses of one American's life, which in a way is rather typical. Possibly it may seem to you a rather selfish life, but if one is comfortably situated and has had broad experience of life and is of the right disposition he is inclined to be keenly sympathetic with those less fortunately situated and in a position to be of real service to them. I sincerely believe that is the characteristic attitude of Americans generally. Furthermore, I get the best magazines, daily newspapers, radio news, Government reports, and follow the national and international situation closely, so that farm life in America is no longer the isolated life it was formerly when I was a boy. From my eyrie on Catoctin Mountain I look down into the valley and see the procession of automobiles, and up in the sky every hour the aeroplanes pass over us like great birds carrying mail and passengers and, figuratively speaking, so I look out over the world with the insight and understanding that comes from having seen most countries of the world.

"I was a delegate to the International Chamber of Commerce meeting in Washington this spring but was so exceedingly busy that I attended only one day. I was exceedingly sorry that I did not see Madame Agresti. When you next see her please express my sincere regret and the hope that all is well with her.

"Please write me about yourself, your family in Napoli, about the Casetta family, President De Michelis, Dr. Brizi, Mr. Van Rijn, Sr. De Campos, Sr. Bilbao, Sr. Brebbia, M.Dore especially, M. Dop, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Montgomery. I had a nice letter recently from Mrs. Sauter (Miss Broad), and occasionally get a postcard from my landlady,

Sra. Fitzmaurice-Scolari of 63 Pierre Luigi da Palestrine. The last I heard from Srta. Vanzetti she was about to go on some sort of a mission to Russia. The last communication I had from Mr. Thompson was to the effect that he had been retired. I have had several very friendly letters from Mr. Hubback. You know, Mr. Longobardi, I count among my richest possessions and blessings the friendships I have made, and the letters I receive from time to time from all parts of the world keep these friendships alive. And now, before it is too late, I want you to know that I count you among these valued friends, not only because of your ability and personal integrity, but because of your unfailing courage and cheerfulness in the face of difficulty, your amiability, your modesty, your courtesy, and the supreme sacrifice you made for the honor of your family, and generally the qualities that go to make up what the English speaking race most admires, a true 'gentleman.' This is my tribute to you, and I want you to have it before you pass over to the great unknown future, or to the reward that should be yours.

"So when you are in the humor write me. If by chance you should ever come to the U.S.A. please consider that Sunny Hill Farm is yours and that I am at your service.

"With best regards, I am

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook.

"P"S"--I read the documents from the Institute with the greatest interest. Please have my postoffice address changed on the mailing list from 'Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.,' to 'Sunny Hill Farm, R. 5, Frederick, Md., U.S.A.,' so that I will receive them with less delay.

"Also please remember that I am personally interested in everything that concerns the progress of the world census.

"Please give my kindest regards to the friends at the Institute whom I mentioned in a preceding paragraph.

"Good luck.

"L.M.E.

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4481

Saturday, 18 July; hot and oppressive. Took flowers to the hotel and on the way back stopped at Winworth to talk with Mr. Castle, the invalid, and to leave with him a copy of Irving Cobb's "A Laugh a Day Keeps the Doctor Away," thinking he would enjoy reading it. I had enjoyed it keenly. As a matter of fact he never there-
after mentioned the book and I resolved never again to ^{volunteer to} lend a book to any one who did not ask for it or express a desire to read it.

Sunday, 19 July; clear and hot. Took mother with me on a trip to the hotel with flowers. Corn tasseling and weeds growing marvel-
lously. After gathering flowers for the house vases I sat in the Whippoorwill reading the Sunday paper with the radio turned on. Eunice came over to clean up. She expressed much feeling over Charlie's love affair with Ethel's sister and asked me to draw up a will leaving all her property to her mother, my Sister Nellie. Charlie discovered a copperhead snake in the shrubbery near the Cricket House. I took the gun and shot its head off. Death was so sudden that it did not move until I took a stick and threw it away.

After luncheon I took Sister Nellie and Eunice over to see Leslie Masser and his wife and to see the remains of the barn that burned down during the week. Nothing remained but the stone foundation and the metal parts of some farm machinery and two automobiles. In a way it was a good thing that the barn burned down, because it was built directly in front of the house and obstructed the view both from the Masser house and the schoolhouse that belonged to my sister. Sister Nellie agreed to sell him half an acre of her ground behind his house for fifty dollars and an agreement on his part to put his barn and other outbuildings on it and never build across the road so as to obstruct the view again. I was instructed to draw up a deed with those provisions in it. While there Lewis Blank drove up and said his brother had been killed in an automobile accident the night before.

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4482

We had a nice supper, followed by violin and piano music by Eunice and Charlie.

Monday, 20 July; hot, with showers. I spent most of the day fitting a new pair of thills to the farm cart. I had drawn up a will in accordance with ^uEunice's wishes and today she took it to the bank and executed it. Charlie made a wall cabinet for the bathroom. He was very ingenious and liked to work with carpentry tools and made many little conveniences about the house. We had a watermelon in the afternoon. Eunice and Charlie returned to Washington after supper.

~~(Adriana, 20 July, brown folder)~~ *omit*

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4483

Tuesday, 21 July; fair and hot. I was up at 4 a.m. to shoot at a dog that was yelping about the place. I did not try to hit him but simply to scare him off. Dawn was stealing over the valley and the sun came up shortly afterwards a bright red. I went back to bed and slept until after 8 o'clock. Took flowers to the hotel and brought back a big watermelon ^{and} some materials for making beer. After a long nap in the afternoon I finished repairing the farm cart.

Wednesday, 22 July; clear and hot. Finished weeding the garden and the peonies. Had the little Jersey cow and Mollie Mula on the lawns for awhile. Both gentle as dogs. Elizabeth did the laundry today. She was a ^{shapely} ~~stately~~ woman of the stately type, a very efficient worker, intelligent and ambitious. Wrote a letter in reply to an inquiry that came as a result of an advertisement I had for the sale of my peonies in the Florists Exchange. My thought was to dispose of the peonies in order to reduce the labor and expense of caring for them, and to raise funds for a few needed improvements ~~and~~ about the place without resorting to a loan on the town house.

✓
(The Harmel Peony Co., 22 July, brown folder)

22 July 1931.

"Mr. A. H. Hardesty,
The Harmel Peony Company,
Berlin, Maryland.

"Dear Sir:

"Answering your letter of July 20 I take pleasure in advising you that in 1914-15-16 I purchased approximately 2,000 peony roots from Jackson & Perkins at Geneva, New York, Goode & Reese of Springfield, Illinois, and Peterson's Nursery of Chicago, and a few scattering orders to other growers, including Farr of Wyomissing, Pa. The bulk of these orders were for Festiva Maxima, Mons. Jules Elie, Edulis Superba, and Felix Crouse, with smaller orders ranging from one to ten roots of higher priced varieties, such as Karl Rosenfeld, Lamartine, Lady Duff, etc., and a few Japanese singles--in all about fifty varieties. The plants thrived and produced excellent crops of superior quality, the buds being sold mostly through the Pennock Company in Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, with occasional shipments to New York, Boston, and Pittsburgh, with good sales of blooms locally.

"The plants were lifted, divided, and reset in new ground in 1920 or 1921 and again thrived until the great drouth which began here in July, 1929, and lasted until this spring. Naturally the plants showed the effects of the severe drouth and in 1930 were undersized and produced only about one-third crop. This year 90% have recuperated wonderfully, made a good crop of bloom--more than we could sell, and with weekly rains are making fine growth for next year. About ten per cent of the plants (mostly small lots of miscellaneous varieties on stony ground) still show the effects of the drouth. In the fall of 1929 the block of 2300 Felix Crousse were divided and reset in the dust, survived the drouth of 1930, and this year bore a fair crop of bloom and are making good growth. The block of 2700 one-year mixed were transplanted in the fall of 1930 and are doing well.

"Unfortunately the varieties are mixed. I was away when the original stocks were received. I left planting plans and instructions with the manager to keep the varieties separate and duly staked and labeled. Some of the orders could not be delivered and others were delayed. The result was the manager planted the roots as received. I was in the Government service at Washington and about that time my administrative duties and responsibilities were greatly increased so that I could rarely visit the farm. The last eight years I was in the foreign service. Upon my return last year I retired and came out here to live this spring. I love peonies and they are profitable, but at my age and in my circumstances I do not care to handle them commercially. Hence my advertisement. However, they are my main cash crop and I see no reason to sacrifice my stocks.

"As to prices: I do not know how wholesale prices range at present. Fifteen years ago I paid an average price of about twenty-five cents per root of 3 to 5 eyes, wholesale. I recall that Felix Crousse cost me 50 cents. Some of the finer varieties which are mixed in with the rest cost me up to \$5.00 per root.

"The bulk of the 8,600 field clumps will run from 10 to 30 stems and I estimate that they should divide into at least an average of five or six planting roots per clump which should sell wholesale for at least 25 to 30 cents per division; in other words these field clumps should sell for from \$1.25 to \$1.50 each. In my present mood and until I get further light I would be inclined to accept an offer of \$1.00 per clump for the lot, dug, undivided, in boxes or barrels, f.o.b. Frederick.

"The 2,300 2-year Felix Crousse are in good shape and can be sold as true to name, because I have staked the few plants of other varieties mixed with them (some 20 or 30). These will come into good bloom next year and I think the lot would be a bargain at 60 to 75 cents per plant.

"The mixed lot of 2,700 1-year plants are thrifty, but mixed, and should be a bargain at 30 cents each. There was some bloom this year, there will be more next year, and in 1933 they will be big plants and heavy bloomers. They include some of the finest varieties.

"If you desire any further information, please let me know. I would be pleased to have your judgment as to the prices I have quoted. I would also be more than pleased to have you visit Sunny Hill Farm and personally inspect the peonies. My iris collection has also grown out of bounds and I should like to dispose of the surplus. Come up, see what I have, and let us talk it over. It would be a good Sunday trip. Simply write or telephone me in advance when to expect you.

"The farm is five miles northwest of Frederick, third knob north of Braddock Heights. Drive up North Market Street, turn left into 4th Street, pass Hood College, cross trolley track twice, and take first road to left about half a mile out of Frederick, follow main road about four miles, through village of Shookstown, on up into the woods, and turn left at my mail box. Or, if you prefer, I can meet you at the Francis Scott Key Hotel at any time you say and bring your out.

"Regardless of business, I should like to meet you. So come on out and bring your wife along. I think perhaps we might have fried chicken and biscuits.

"Very truly yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook.

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4484

Thursday, 23 July; hot and oppressive with shower in afternoon. Took flowers to the hotel and returned with supplies. The county scraper was at work on our mountain road with good results. Received a nice letter from the publisher of La Hacienda saying that what they had in mind was for me to spend about two days a month at their New York office in an advisory capacity regarding articles for their magazine, prepare a two to four page article on the international economic situation once a month, and to attend, report upon, and perhaps address four meetings a year. He asked that I name the compensation I would expect. The proposal rather appealed to me, but I was puzzled at the indefinite way in which the matter of compensation was left.

Friday, 24 July; cool forenoon following showers, but hot afternoon. I rode Mollie Mula down to the lower place. The crops were looking well. I rode between two fields of Sudan grass that was shoulder high and then followed the wood road up through the rocks and a pine grove. Took a nap in the afternoon.

(Mr. Bayard, La Hacienda, 24 July, brown folder)

"Sunny Hill Farm, R.5,
Frederick, Md.,
24 July 1931.

"Mr. A. W. Bayard,
Publisher, La Hacienda,
20 Vesey Street,
New York City, N.Y.

"My dear Mr. Bayard:

"I have your letter of July 22 and was pleased to see your signature again. I remember very well and with pleasure our interview last year in Washington and subsequent correspondence; also the very favorable impression that the few copies of La Hacienda that I have seen made upon me.

(By the way, please put me on the mailing list for La Hacienda and send back numbers beginning with January. If nothing comes of our correspondence I will pay the subscription price.)

"Now as to your proposal: Essentially it is, as I understand it (1) that I shall spend two days each month at the office of the publication in New York for editorial work and consultation; (2) that I prepare an article of from 4 to 6 pages each month bearing on the international aspects of Latin American conditions; and (3) that I should attend about four conventions annually, which I should report, and at some of which I might be expected to address on some topic related to Latin America. This program appeals to me for a number of reasons and I feel confident that I can meet the obligations involved satisfactorily.

"Apparently the matter of compensation is the only point left open for discussion. As to this you are in better position to decide what is fair compensation than I am. You have had experience as publisher and know the financial situation of your company and the customary rates for similar service. My experience for the last 40 years has been in the Government service and it has never been necessary for me to discuss the question of assignment or salary. Always I was more

interested in the success of the project on which I was engaged than in the salary that went with it, and I was so fortunate that interesting assignments and increases in salary came without any solicitation on my part. For this reason I am unaccustomed to bargaining and am ignorant of commercial rates. Your proposal interests me and I simply want sufficient compensation to justify me in devoting the necessary time to make the project a success, without feeling that I am making an unjustifiable sacrifice.

"To facilitate agreement on the question of compensation I suggest the following:

"(1) A temporary arrangement, say for six months, on terms to be specified by you.

"(2) That in deciding what should be fair to your company and to me, you consider the following:

"(a) My long and rather unusual experience in the public service, especially in agriculture, organization, statistics, and economics.

"(b) A salary of \$15,000, American gold, plus travel expenses of self and family, for the Argentine Government in 1923-24.

"(c) A salary of \$6,000 per annum with the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome and U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1925-30, plus actual expenses of travel or per diem in lieu of subsistence at \$8.00. (Note--I could have had position as crop forecaster with private concerns at \$10,000 in 1924, but preferred the international service at \$6,000).

"(d) Subsistence and transportation from Frederick, Md., to and from New York, via Washington or Baltimore, and compensation and subsistence for two days in New York and one day en route. This would mean bus fare from Frederick to and from Washington or Baltimore at about \$1.50 each way, and railway fare between Washington or Baltimore and New York. I have a car, of course, but cost to Baltimore or

Washington would be about the same. I would prefer Washington because of familiarity with the city, access to information, contacts, etc.

"(e) In order to spend two days in New York I would have to leave Frederick the afternoon of one day to catch the night train out of Washington or Baltimore to arrive in New York the next morning; and leave New York in the evening to arrive in Baltimore or Washington the following morning in time to catch the bus to reach Frederick at noon. In other words, in order to spend two days in New York I would lose three days.

"(f) Preparation of one article a month. This to me is the most important and critical part of your proposal and involves the most responsibility, because my work and reputation will be judged largely by the written showing and record I establish. To be sure, I can formulate and typewrite four to six pages of stuff consisting of superficial generalities in an hour, or a few hours at most, and this would keep my name before the public, but it would be equally unsatisfactory to me, to you, and to the readers of your publication. I feel that these articles should be the combined result of long experience, knowledge, interest, good judgment, and research--at least checking up with the latest results of research and current opinion so that they will be timely, informative, and fairly safe guides to the future. For this work I have the experience that comes from years of travel, observation, and contact with technicians and current sources of information which I read as a matter of habit; but in addition I shall need to look up sources of information in Washington, make and maintain contacts, interview key men from time to time, and check up so far as practicable, so that when my articles are printed they will be informative, authoritative, suggestive, dependable, helpful and of value to those who read them, and run the gauntlet of unfair criticism.

To meet these requirements I might feel it necessary to spend from one to several days a month in Washington or in studying literature available in my library at Sunny Hill. In any event it would take a certain amount of time to the complete exclusion of other things. My experience has been that on things in which I am interested and deem worth while I spend far more time in preparation than most people would consider necessary, and for this I must make allowance. Furthermore, I no longer have a corps of government research workers and stenographers at my beck and call, and while the government research workers who are my friends will gladly cooperate, I will have to do my own typewriting--which I detest.

"(g) As to attendance at the four annual conventions, I can handle this easily, both as to summarising proceedings and results, and, if necessary, giving an address as representative of La Hacienda, because I have been attending local, national, and international assemblies for the last twenty years. For this I should receive compensation for time involved, travel and subsistence expenses.

"In conclusion I will say this: Because of my rather unique experience I am interested in national and international questions; my financial situation is such that I am absolutely independent and have no debts; yet I feel the need of literary expression, contacts with the outside world, and an addition to my cash income of about \$1500 per annum. In return I am willing to give about one-fourth of my time, thought and energy--at least for a temporary period. If during the last five or six years I had been equally successful in selling pins, needles and buttonholes as I was in selling the idea of an international agricultural census to the governments of the world I would have made 50 to 100 thousand dollars a year; but I preferred to sell an idea and promote an international movement of permanent value. In the same spirit, I am more interested in pro-

moting progress and international cooperation among the American republics than I am in bargaining for a salary.

"In the light of the foregoing, please advise me what you feel justified in definitely offering me for a temporary arrangement of six months, say beginning with September, 1931, to March, 1932, inclusive.

"Also, on my first visit to New York I would want full information regarding the history, organization and ~~present~~ present status of La Hacienda, its personnel, purposes and aims for the future; and I would stipulate for a relatively ^{free} ~~free~~ hand in the articles I should write, subject, of course, to your instructions and the usual necessary editorial corrections. In other words, I feel that a certain amount of freedom is essential in trying to achieve in my own way the objects and policies of my employers, and I have so stipulated in all my assignments with various governments during the last twenty years.

"Incidentally, have you considered the fact that in 1932 the U.S. is to have a national celebration in Washington; in 1933 Chicago is staging an international congress of scientific associations; and that in the same year, 1933, the 16th International Congress of Agriculture will meet in Buda-Pest, all of which will be of interest to the Latin American countries; also that the Inter-American Commercial Conference will meet in Washington this autumn; in all of which your publication should be represented.

"Please excuse this long and rather desultory letter in which I have tried to give you my point of view so that you might intelligently consider the question of compensation for the service you have in mind.

"I am sorry I have not some photographs of Sunny Hill to send you. We have been having weekly showers, following eighteen months of continuous drouth, and vegetation is now luxuriant. I hope some-

time to have the pleasure of entertaining you here.

"With best regards, regardless of the outcome of our correspondence, I am

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook."

(1931, July, S.H.)

E--4485

Saturday, 25 July; beautiful summer day. After taking flowers to the hotel and bringing out supplies I hitched Mollie Mula to the lawnmower and went over the lawns. After supper I took mother and sister over the ridge to see Mrs. Jennie Masser. After dark we sat on the veranda and watched the lights in the valley and listened to the radio.

Sunday, 26 July; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out a Sunday paper. Had a nice chicken luncheon and a nap. In the middle of the afternoon we had a cold honeydew melon. A little later some visitors from Braddock Heights came. Spent a pleasant evening on the veranda.

Monday, 27 July; clear and hot. Drove to Washington in the early morning. The crops were looking well en route. Threshing wheat was in progress. Parked the car in a vacant lot opposite our house on 17th Street, and for this privilege paid 45 cents. I left a note at Eunice's apartment saying I would call in the evening. Left my ^Panama straw hat to be cleaned and pressed. Walked to the Pan American Union and saw Dr. Gil Borges and Dr. Manger. Then to the Cosmos Club to look over the papers. Had luncheon. Dr. Haskell and a companion joined me and we had a pleasant visit. Soon afterward Mr. Hobson came in with a companion. He barely recognized me so I paid no further attention to him.

After luncheon I took a taxi to the Department of Agriculture. The whole front of the old terrace was being filled in and the grounds reshaped. Driveways were cut through and some of the large Gingho trees, the pride of the Department, were being removed. Some of these large trees had been transplanted to positions in front of the new administration building but were not thriving.

I called on Dr. Woods and his secretary, both of whom were very cordial. After the interview I spent an hour or more in the National

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Museum. Then I returned to the Cosmos Club. While looking over the magazines in the reading room Mr. Hobson came in and sat with me awhile. He was cordial but, as usual, silent with respect to official affairs. However, he said that he had been to Europe and had visited Rome and London, that his family was in Wisconsin, and that Dr. H. C. Taylor had some sort of an assignment to study conditions in the Orient. He volunteered no information about Rome or the International Institute of Agriculture.

I called at Eunice's apartment at 6 o'clock just as she was entering and had already dined. I went to a restaurant on Connecticut Avenue for supper and sat in the park awhile afterwards. Then returned to Eunice's apartment and found that her husband, Charlie, had been trying to reach me at the Cosmos Club. He took me for a drive around the Speedway and back by way of the National Museum. The Speedway was filled with a solid procession of slowly moving cars. The site of the old Center Market was cleared of buildings.

At 8.35 p.m. I took Eunice in a taxi to the Pan American Union where we spent the evening listening to a Pan American concert. It was very pleasant and I saw many people I knew. We walked back to the apartment, stopping en route for a soda. I got away shortly after midnight. The street lights in the city and the automobile lights in the country bothered me a good deal and I had to drive carefully. It was 1.30 a.m. when I reached Sunny Hill. The streets of Frederick were deserted when I passed through. It was much hotter in Washington than at the farm.

Tuesday, 28 July; clear and very hot. I did not go to sleep until 4 a.m. and was up at 8. I pulled some weeds, but it was so hot and I perspired so freely that I had to change clothes several times. Helped sister put some homemade beer in bottles. Her cow had a calf in the late afternoon. I passed the barn and noticed the cow step-

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ping about uneasily. Returning in the opposite direction within a minute or two a newborn calf lay on the ground and its mother was licking it. Quick work, I thought.

Mr. Hankey came out and fixed the little battery radio in the Whippoorwill and it functioned nicely thereafter.

The evening was beautiful with a full moon over the valley, a delightful breeze, and the hum of insects in the air. Heard the first katadid this evening. Had a letter from La Hacienda saying that my letter had been forwarded to Mr. Bayard but that since their last letter they had suffered severe losses in their advertizing from cancellations and I should not be surprised at the modest offer they would make me. Also had a letter from the Harmel Peony Company saying they were not interested in the peony varieties I had for sale.

Wednesday, 29 July; very hot with rain in the afternoon.

I spent the day in the Whippoorwill writing letters and preparing a list of peony orders for fall delivery. Found they totaled about \$75. Sister Nellie having trouble with one of her ears.

Thursday, 30 July; very hot and valley covered with haze that completely obscured Sugar Loaf Mountain. Took flowers to the hotel and did some errands. After returning and changing my clothes I helped clean out the Whippoorwill basement, used as a packing room, and pumped water into the Cricket House bathroom. Then changed clothes again. Spent the afternoon in the Whippoorwill with the electric fan going, smoking and sipping cherry wine, and playing phonograph records. Not very edifying, but comfortable.

Friday, 31 July; clear pleasant day. Sister Nellie had Elizabeth helping clean up in preparation for visitors. In the afternoon Mr. Carris called up from the hotel in Frederick and Sister Nellie and I drove in to pilot him and his wife out. Spent the rest

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of the day entertaining them. We put them up in the Cricket House, with which they were greatly pleased. I took Mr. Carris for a walk through the woods and down to the spring and back through the pine grove. Both he and his wife were pleasant people. He was an official of the Federal Vocational Education Board with headquarters in New York. They had motored from New York to Buffalo, Canada, Chicago, New Orleans, Miami, and back to Washington, he making addresses at various places. We sat on the front veranda talking and listening to the radio until after 11 p.m.

Saturday, 1 Aug.; clear and cool. Took flowers to the hotel in the early morning and entertained the Carrises until 10.30 a.m. when they left in their car for New York City, expecting to arrive the same evening. Received check for annuity. Checked my bank account and saw that my balance would not be sufficient to pay the taxes on town house and farms in September. Wrote to wife suggesting a loan on the town house and asking if she would sign the necessary papers with me.

Had a telephone message from a Mr. Roth in Washington asking if he could see my collection of photographs of South America and I suggested that he come out. He arrived at 4 o'clock. His card bore the legend "World Traveller, and his title "Dr.," but he was very noncommittal as to his status and mission. However, discreet questioning brought out the fact that he had not been outside the United States and that he was lecturing on foreign countries. He proposed to give some lectures on South American countries, after which he thought he might visit them. I suggested that it might be well to visit those countries first and lecture about them afterwards. He would not accept an invitation to take supper with us, but remained until 8.30 p.m., four and a half hours, looking at my photographs and asking questions. He selected sixty-two enlargements and asked for the

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loan of them. I declined on the ground that he was a stranger and because I would need them for a book I was writing. He said it was the best collection of pictures he had seen in America and he much wanted me to lend him the negatives. He had a young woman with him in his car who refused to get out, come in, or look about. There she sat for more than four hours without stirring.

Charlie and Eunice came out in the afternoon. At 9.30 p.m. Charlie drove to Frederick and brought out Mr. Wilbur Winchester, Jr., my sister's step-son. He was a typical traveling salesman and was traveling for a firm that manufactured infant foods. He was agreeable in his manners but a voluble talker. We put him up in the attic of the Whippoorwill.

(Wife, 1 Aug., brown folder)

from of them. I decided on the ground that he was a stranger and because I would need him for a book I was writing. He said he was the best collection of pictures he had seen in America and he had wanted me to have his negatives. He had a young woman with him in his car who returned to get out, come in, or look about. There she sat for some four hours without stirring.

Charlie and I went out in the afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Charlie drove to Frederick and brought out Mr. William Winchester, Jr., my nephew's nephew. He was a typical traveling salesman and was traveling for a firm that manufactured infant foods. He was capable in his manners but a vulgar talker. He put me up in the studio of the Whitcombwill.

(Wife: Mrs. Brown Fisher)

1 August 1931.

"Dear Nellie:

"I inclose check for \$35.00. Sorry it is not more.

"Last month I wrote that the tenant of 1026 had not paid his rent. I had instructed the agent to take legal steps to dispossess him and summons were served. However, on the last day of grace he paid up and the day after I wrote you I received the proceeds, less commission and cost of some repairs.

"I am keeping down farm expenses as best I can, but next month taxes will be due, \$95 plus on the farm and \$200 plus on 1026 and the lots, besides farm hand wages, living and other expenses. I have a prospect for some editorial work on a Latin American periodical, but this may not materialize because of the financial situation. I am advertising peony roots for sale in trade journals, but so far have no bites. It looks as if a loan on 1026 may be necessary to enable me to keep up the monthly payments to you and put Sunny Hill in shape to more than pay expenses. I have in mind, among other things, getting a small saw mill and working up the waste timber into stove wood for sale next winter. The timeber is badly in need of culling and the neighbors are hard up for ~~some~~ something to do, there being little or no sale for their farm produce and the factories in Frederick being shut down more than half time. Think of poor little Oscar Schultz with his big fat wife and nine children to feed and clothe--poor invalid Simon Klipp with the aid of a blind horse and an old mule trying to support his family--and others who are struggling to barly exist. If I can get the sawmill outfit I could give some of these people employmat, improve the woods of Sunny Hill, and should make something over and above expenses. What do you think of the loan proposition? If yes, it will facilitate matters greatly and enable me to keep up monthly payments to you. If not, well and good; in no event would

I consider obtaining a loan to finance Otis in the purchase of an automobile; he does not yet appreciate or understand the cost or value of a dollar--and never will so long as it is supplied by some one else without effort on his part other than begging. A loan, however, would insure a \$50 a month allowance to you and make it ~~easy~~ easier for me to put Sunny Hill on a paying basis until real estate values revive and we can sell 1026 without too great a sacrifice and divide up. I appealed from the tax assessments on the ground that 40% of gross income is too much, but recently received notice that no reduction can be made. 1026 is assessed at about \$24,000, rents on a valuation basis of \$10,000, and I have listed it for sale at \$21,000--without any offers.

"The tenant of Lower Sunny Hill House and garden is said to be a bootlegger. He has so far paid his rent with work. He has relieved me of some embarrassment by purchasing a place of his own and will move the first of next month.

"Sunny Hill has a new baby, Elizabeth--or Betty, a cute little heifer calf with big inquiring eyes and frisky manners. A nameless stray black and white mongrel cat has adopted Sunny Hill and in spite of all rebuffs is most ingratiating. Twice we have sent him away as far as Frederick and each time he has returned thin and worn-out but obviously thankful to get back 'home.' We have not the heart to put him out of the way, although he has killed many of the half-tame bunnies and parent birds protest his presence.

"Well, my dear, I wonder sometimes if you ever have any conception of what you sacrificed for certain preconceived, purely personal obsessions, regardless of consequences. You have made the closing years of your life a tragedy and the closing years of my life a great disappointment--and benefitted nobody in particular. If you do not yet realize this you surely will later on. But when I think of the

bitter enmity you developed last year without just cause I am resigned and say, 'Oh well, what's the use, never again--anything is better than that.' And so I consider ways and means of providing for you, and hope that you are happy in your surroundings, surroundings of your own free choice, and hope that you may realize your dream of congenial employment, public recognition, and an earned income that will make you completely independent. I wonder sometimes what progress you have made in realizing this dream.

"Life here is increasingly interesting, not only because of the wonderful things that are taking place all about us but because of the very human interest in our neighbors. Leslie and Lillian have had their tragedy. Last week Oda's husband was arrested because of non-payment of \$5 a week alimony, and his father had Lucy arrested. So things are happening and humming. Mrs. Jennie Masser is making a brave fight against great obstacles. Lewis Blank is becoming one of the leading and most substantial citizens of Shookstown. And in spite of petty meannesses the people out here are very human and respond generously to any appeal to their sympathies. More than that, three-fourths of them could buy out more than three-fourths of Washington. To one who has understanding and sympathy all these human manifestations are a thousand times more interesting than the dead level of equally routine and sordid city life.

"I have missed you greatly and often wished that I might have you ~~here for a week--alone and without encumbrances, but which I have felt~~ was impossible because of your psychology. Well, my dear, my wish is that you may be happy and contented under whatever circumstances you may select and it would contribute to my mental feeling of tranquility if you could give me some assurance on this point.

"I know your habitual aversion to writing, but after this letter I shall match your silence. Buenos noches,

"L.M.E."

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Sunday, 2 Aug.; clear and hot. Took Mr. Winchester with me to deliver flowers to the Hotel. Sister Nellie cooked some ~~fine~~ ^{good} meals. In the evening Charlie and Eunice gave us some fine music.

Monday, 3 Aug.; hot. Eunice and Charlie left for Washington before we were up. At 8.45 I took Mr. Winchester to Frederick in time to catch the bus for Washington. On the way back I stopped to talk with Mr. Castle and cheer him up. Spent a good part of the day typing a list of peonies and plants for fall delivery. In the evening took mother and sister down to Winworth and while sister picked gladioli mother and I visited the Castles.

Tuesday, 4 Aug.; hot and sultry. Took flowers to the hotel. Brought out a watermelon that was overripe. Several little children from Shookstown came up during the day. Mother suggested that I take them over to the Whippoorwill and play some Bubble Books on the phonograph. The three little girls sat stiffly in the large chairs without uttering a word while I played the records. It was a little embarrassing all round. At the conclusion of the musicale I took them into the Cubby Hole office and turned the electric fan on them. This seemed to interest and please them greatly. I finished typing the plant orders and did some weeding.

Wednesday, 5 Aug.; hot. Dressed in old clothes and worked about the place. Cleaned out a closet and mowed some weeds. Rode the mule to the lower place. The Sudan grass was higher than a man's head. I rode down to Winworth where Lewis was working and told him to get out the mower and begin cutting the Sudan grass in the afternoon.

Thursday, 6 Aug.; clear and hot. Took flowers to town and on the way back stopped at Winworth to talk with Mr. Castle. Had a ~~drin~~ drink of whiskey there. While there Mr. Willard, manager for Mr. Baker, the banker, called. I jollied him severely about the tenant at Lower Sunny Hill whom he had recommended so highly and stood sponsor for.

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Spent the rest of the day reading newspapers. In the evening I took mother and sister to a movie show in Frederick.

Friday, 7 Aug.; clear and hot. Awoke with griping pains in the morning and laid down most of the day. Ate nothing until supper time. Lewis finished cutting the Sudan grass at the lower place. Sister Nellie's crop of wheat made 81 bushels, of which one-half went for sowing, harvesting, and threshing. She had it hauled up to Sunny Hill barn and I paid her fifty cents a bushel for it for feeding purposes. The Summers' barn burned down at noon with total loss of implements and wheat. Had a letter from wife saying she "would meet me on my own ground," and that she was visiting with the Yost family at Wicomico where they had a cottage.

Saturday, 8 Aug.; very hot. Mowed some lawns. Cultivated one of the gardens. Lewis and Billie hauled up five loads of Sudan hay. It was so luxuriant that it cured up very slowly. Eunice and Charlie out in the afternoon.

Sunday, 9 August; hot until a heavy rain came at 4 p.m. Took mother with me to deliver flowers at the hotel in the morning. Mr. Teft Johnston and wife came out in their old car, the "Crazy Cat," and spent the day. We had a nice dinner and in the afternoon cut a large watermelon.

(Wife, 9 Aug., brown folder)

9 August 1931.

"Dear Nellie:

"Your cheery letter of the 4th was very welcome because of the assurance that you are well, that you had an enjoyable vacation at Wicomico, and that I may expect another letter from you shortly. The statement to ~~the~~ effect that you will soon be prepared to meet me on my own ground is not entirely clear to me. Sunny Hill is my ground, as well as yours, and our home where you properly belong. Am I to assume that your great adventure is over, that time has softened the fierce bitterness of last year, and that you are now in the mood to rejoin your husband and try to live the life we had planned for our old age and looked forward to so hopefully? If so, I shall be glad because I have missed you greatly and always will until you return to the home I have provided at Sunny Hill--the only home I could provide in the unexpected situation that developed when my foreign assignment ended and my salary stopped. In some respects it is an ideal home.

"How about it? Do you wish me to bring you out to Sunny Hill for a day or whatever time you say; or would you prefer to take luncheon with me at the Cosmos Club and talk it over?

"With best wishes, and hoping all will be well,

"Sincerely,

"L.M.E."

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Monday, 10 Aug.; hot and sultry until another rain came at 4 p.m. This rain insured a good crop of corn but meant the loss of the fine crop of Sudan grass hay that was still on the ground. The Texas persimmon tree at the corner of the garden was so heavily laden with fruit that it leaned over the fence and had to be propped. Some of the apple trees were bending under their load of fruit. Sister Nellie having trouble with her side. Charlie was quite ill, probably from overeating. Eunice took mother to town in the afternoon on a shopping trip. Wrote letters, one to wife, and another declining an offer of \$1,000 for my stock of peonies, and another to Mr. Simon J. Lubin relative to his paper "To Conserve Capitalism" in which he proposed that people should leave cities and towns and live on small selfsufficing farms. The thunder & storm that came up at 4 p.m. was spectacular. Nearly one and a half inches of rain fell in a few minutes. At first the rain was swept across the fields in horizontal sheets and then settled into a steady downpour that completely obscured the view. It was like a tropical rain and came so fast that it could not run off quickly even on the slopes.

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(Lubin, 10 Aug., brown folder)

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4492

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✓
(Lubin, 10 Aug., brown folder)

Letter to Mr. Simon J. Lubin, Sacramento, California:

10 August 1931.

"Dear Mr. Lubin:

"Complying with your request of August 5 I read your paper on 'To Save Capitalism,' and as I read made the following notes:

"(1) Page 1, Par. 2: 'Is it not better to look upon this depression as a thermometer indicating the disease' etc. Question, whether a single depression, event, or period can serve as an instrument for measuring a series of depressions or events. A series of events might serve this purpose to show relativity. Inasmuch as in the first paragraph you have referred to the present and to preceding depressions, why not use the plural and say 'these depressions.'

"(2) Page numbers are omitted making page references difficult.

"(3) As I read through pages 2 and 3, which are excellent, and come to the underscored paragraph 'Remove these artificial....barriers...to the elemental instrument of production--the land,' I am reminded of a Sunday afternoon I spent in a great park at Sydney, Australia. This park is open to all who feel that they have a message, patterned after Hyde Park. As I emerged from the art gallery I saw many groups of people, each addressed by an impassioned speaker, each group numbering from a very few to several thousand. I went from group to group and heard all sorts of public, social, and religious questions discussed--taxation, compulsory military training, socialism, I.W.W.-ism, prohibition, etc, and one speaker was dealing with the question of unemployment which was a serious problem at that time, December, 1927, in Australia. The speaker pointed out that Australia has millions and millions of idle acres and hundreds of thousands of idle workers with their families in dire distress, and his solution was simply to put the idle workers on the idle land. Of course, he was either ignorant of or conveniently overlooked all the serious

Letter to Mr. Dixon J. Larkin, Sacramento, California

10 August 1931

Dear Mr. Larkin:

"Complying with your request of August 5 I read your paper on

'To Have Capitalism', and as I read made the following notes:

"(1) Page 1, Para. 1: It is not better to look upon this as a

single depression, event, or period but rather as an instrument for

measuring a series of depressions or events. A series of events

might serve this purpose to show relativity. Inasmuch as in the first

paragraph you have referred to the present and to preceding depressions,

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minded of a Sunday afternoon I spent in a great park at Sydney, Aus-

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December, 1927, in Australia. The speaker pointed out that Australia

has millions and millions of idle acres and hundreds of thousands of

idle workers with their families in dire distress, and his solution

was simply to put the idle workers on the idle land. Of course, as

was often pointed out or conveniently overlooked all the nations

problems involved in this simple solution of the unemployment problem. Pardon the reminiscence.

"Again--'The one remedy for unemployment is work'! Surely; but, unfortunately, this also involves many and serious problems.

"Continuing, page 4: 'Opportunity to produce for their own consumption' on land. How about the things people want and can obtain in cities but cannot produce on the land, such as radios, moving pictures, fine raiment, liesure, recreation, medical service, etc., which are regarded as necessities under our much vaunted standard of living. Perhaps this is taken care of farther on.

"What is meant by 'articles for their own consumption'? Is it simply food, clothing, and shelter? How many Americans would be satisfied to work for long hours for just that, even though in times of unemployment these bare necessities are unobtainable. When I was in Great Britain I heard much of their unemployment problem--infinitely more difficult than our own. To various officials I made the very obvious suggestion that their surplus unemployed might be sent to Canada, to South Africa, or to Australia, countries of great opportunity with same laws and language, thus relieving pressure of population, solving unemployment problems, and strengthening the Empire. The reply was that all this had been tried out at great public expense, but that the spirit of pioneer adventure seemed to have died out and that the people they sent to these newer countries missed the music halls and other allurements of modern city life, proved utterly worthless as settlers, and yelled their heads off to be brought back and put on the dole.

"Public owned land. This is, of course, wild or undeveloped land, mostly remote, largely inaccessible, and under present conditions 'marginal,' i.e., profitable or habitable ^{only} under exceptional conditions. Why discuss public, undeveloped, marginal lands when

there are millions of acres of arable lands privately owned near transportation, social and consuming centers to be had for less than cost of buildings on almost any terms? Of the 6,000,000 unemployed how many have the physique, experience and pioneering spirit to undergo the hardships involved in bringing public land now available into production?

"Page 6, Potatoes. On the average potatoes are produced at a loss. For the last 30 years crop reports show that in alternate years we have over- and under-production, the over-production crops selling for less in the aggregate than the under-production crops, and in both years only the exceptional man making wages. I have seen thousands of acres of fine potatoes in the field offered free to all comers who would dig and carry away what they wanted. Naturally I am not enthusiastic about potatoes, especially after having collected several million (more or less) bugs which miraculously appeared from nowhere in my own potato patch this season. My only thought in connection with potatoes is that there is a wonderful opportunity for some genius to invent a means of utilizing the surprising strength of potato beetles to supply cheap power to the farm. Verily, the supply is unlimited.

"Bottom of page 6 and top page 7. There comes to mind the great experiment of the Palestine Zionist Executive. I was shown over the various agricultural projects of the Executive in Palestine by its accomplished agronomist. They have spent a lot of money and perhaps have accomplished more in a few years than was accomplished in the preceding millenium and perhaps have done all that is humanly possible with ample funds, technical advice, and hereditary zeal to accomplish a great racial vision, and yet I doubt if the agricultural projects can succeed--except the relatively small irrigation project on the Jordan. For example, the model dairy farm and school near Jerusalem has the requisite purebred dairy cows, modern equipment, and trained techni-

cians, but every pound of forage must be imported and every pint of water must be purchased from an Arab, the owner of the only available water supply. Every ~~pou~~ pint of milk and every pound of butter could be purchased in and imported from America, Argentina, or Australia. ^{at less cost} I was told that it costs an average of \$5,000 for every Jewish immigrant settled on the land in Palestine, and I am strongly of the impression that most of them will leave rather promptly as soon as financial support is withdrawn. The trouble is that the climate appears to have changed greatly since Biblical times, and all the treasure in the world cannot change it.

"Page 8, Economic Council. The proposed national economic council is in the air. Hoover's habitual and favorite idea, and it comes from many sources. Surely, any council of best minds means, as in union, strength and safety--but how futile are many if not most of them. At any rate they serve the useful purpose of bringing together many men of many minds, diverse experience and views, and result in better understanding, in necessary compromises, and the accumulation of ideas and programs that serve the useful purpose of inspiring public confidence and bringing about cooperation and united and effective action not otherwise obtainable. So, therefore, I am in favor of the conference.

"The foregoing expresses my off-hand reaction as I read through your interesting paper. To all other statements therein I heartily agree. One of the tragedies of human life is the spectacle of a man able to work, willing to work, and desperately anxious to work, but without opportunity to work. The tragedy is intensified a thousand-fold if he has a family or other dependents. It is almost unthinkable that this should be an individual and not a national problem. But such a condition exists and probably has existed since division of labor, specialization of occupation, and private property first developed

in social and community life. Opportunity for employment and access ~~to~~ to the means of employment, land and capital, is or should be one of the inalienable rights of man the same ^{as} life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It has never been so in the past, is not now, but let us hope that it may become so in the eternal future. Perhaps your paper may contribute to that end.

"Perhaps I may seem 'hard-boiled' because of my long and intimate experience in agriculture, personal and theoretical, and my observation through more than a quarter of a century of the effect ~~of~~ ^a various campaigns by well trained and organized forces of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, especially during the period of the great war, and further observations in practically all countries of the world. In the case of land to be utilized for producing food, clothing, and shelter, you are dealing with two factors, i.e., natural conditions that are subject to human control only to a very slight degree, and human nature, human psychology, and human reactions that in ~~spite~~ spite of the claims of propagandist specialists flow on serenely along the lines of human experience and least resistance. It is this old human nature and instinctive subconscious psychology that renders futile and frustrates all the plans for realizing the rosy dreams of socialists, communists, and idealists generally. That is why no paper plan can ever serve as a panacea for human ills, because after all it is simply the idea of an individual as opposed to the experience of the race and the ideas of innumerable other individuals. Of the two factors it is impossible to decide which is most critical and important. A flood, a destructive hail storm, a cyclone, or several years of continuous drouth will knock out all the human opinion and psychology that ever existed--along with the divinest of all things, hope and optimism. To raise a bumper crop and be unable to sell it for enough to pay for the expense of harvesting it has about the same effect.

"Of the 6,000,000 unemployed in the United States today, how many are capable of selfsupport on the land; how many can be persuaded to live on the land as a free gift; and of these how many really want land; and of the total persuaded to go on the free land, how many would remain and how many would want to leave the land promptly; ~~and~~ would not 100% want to leave the land promptly after the first crop failure came and the hard manual labor and disappointed hopes of themselves and entire families had gone for naught? Or, after hard labor, brilliant prospects and great hopes, an abundant crop, and no market! That is the common experience. And in the face of that experience you are advocating more people on the land.

"Well, rather pessimistic, is it not? Yes, actual farming experience is heartbreaking. And yet, and yet, the family farm life is the only life for some souls, of which I am one. Mere subsistence, mere dollars and cents, mere social or political distinction, is not all. I hope before I pass over to the great beyond to leave as a legacy to those who come after an expression of some of the joys and compensations of the individual farm family life that can be obtained in no other calling or situation or that mere money or social position cannot procure, and that access to the land would make possible to many fellow beings. No human being in all the world is in such an impregnable position against the slings and stings of misfortune as the independent farmer.

"And so, my friend, disregard the criticisms my experience suggests, and publish and widely distribute your paper as a contribution to human welfare.

"Sincerely yours,

"Leon M. Estabrook.

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4493

Tuesday, 11 Aug.; raining nearly all day. Took flowers to the hotel and stopped to cheer up Mr. Castle. He had suffered a severe relapse but was better. His wife talked incessantly about her ancestral home in Baltimore. Charlie finished a cupboard for linen in the bathroom. He and Eunice gave us some good music in the evening.

Wednesday, 12 Aug.; cloudy and cool, gloomy and unpleasant. Charlie and Eunice left early for Washington. I mowed weeds by the roadsides. I was ~~about to write~~ ^{was thinking of writing} to the real estate agents about the nonpayment of rent, but hesitated, and within an hour a letter came with check inclosed.

Thursday, 13 Aug.; a beautiful day. I walked through the woods to the lower place. The fine crop of Sudan grass hay was beaten into the ground, almost black in color, and spattered with dirt. It was spoiled as hay but might be used for bedding. Saw the tenant who showed me a large tree near the spring in which a swarm of bees had their nest. I refused to let him ^cut down the tree on the chance of getting a few pounds of honey. Had Lewis and Billie repairing the drive between the entrance gate and the barn. It had been torn to pieces by the deluge of rain.

After a nap in the afternoon I mowed some lawns. Had a letter from the manager of the telephone company saying he had received complaints to the effect that someone in our house was breaking in on telephone conversations: Mother and sister were very indignant.

Took mother and sister with me to Frederick to visit Mr. and Mrs. Grove. They were very pleasant people. He grew up in Shookstown and for many years taught in the Shookstown School. He had purchased a farm on the edge of Frederick which had gradually appreciated greatly in value for building lots and he had built several houses. They were grieving over the loss of their only son shortly after his marriage.

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4494

There was an encampment at the aviation grounds near the county hospital and the roads were full of automobiles.

Friday, 14 Aug.; clear and warm. Sister ironing and mother painting pictures. I wrote some letters and mowed some lawns.

Saturday, 15 Aug.; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel, visited the Castles, mowed some lawns, and wrote some letters.

Sunday, 16 Aug.; clear and hot. Took flowers to the hotel and read the Sunday papers. After a nice chicken dinner I took a long nap and listened to the radio. Many airplanes circling around.

Monday, 17 Aug.; clear and hot. Weeds growing fast. Lewis and Billie hauled in six loads of the discolored Sudan hay. Took lawnmower to Frederick to be sharpened. Took Elizabeth and little Marie down as far as the schoolhouse lane. The electriciansⁿ were out to test the outside light near the Whippoorwill. One of the electricians said he found a nest full of rotten eggs and put ~~some~~^{them} under the seat of the truck and was hoping they would explode or break before the truck ^areached town. I spent the afternoon writing an account of Argentina for a Grange talk. After supper I took Sister Nellie to Winworth where she gathered some peaches. While I talked with Mr. Castle. There I was introduced to Mr. Dorsey Etchison, an attorney of Frederick.

Tuesday, 18 Aug.; hot and sultry. Took flowers to the hotel in the morning and brought back a supply of groceries. Also brought the lawnmower that had been sharpened and did some mowing in the afternoon. Had a letter from the secretary of the Rotary Club at Clearfield, Pennsylvania, asking me to address the club, they to pay my expenses up and back. While eating supper a car drove up with the sister-in-law of Mrs. Baker and children, and a colored chauffeur. She wanted a dollar's worth of flowers. I told her I was eating supper and she would either have to wait or pick the flowers herself. She seemed not at all pleased. After supper I went out and helped her cut some more

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4494

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(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4495

flowers so that she had a good supply. She said she had just returned from a trip to Norway.

Wednesday, 19 Aug.; cloudy, hot, light showers. The cows seemed crazy for apples and we had difficulty in confining them to a pasture. When I went to the mail box I took a sickle with me and on the way back cut some sprouts and weeds growing by the roadside. Received a friendly letter from wife saying she would meet me at the Cosmos Club, provided no mention was made of the past or future. It was quite evident she had no intention of rejoining me, and she made no mention of my proposal to obtain a loan on the town house. Also she was silent about herself or the adopted children with whom she was ^{living} living.. I showed the letter to mother and sister, who were very indignant. I prepared a financial statement for the first seven months of the year and found I had spent over \$7,000 in moving, renovating the place, and installing electricity, heat and water systems, and labor on the farm.

Thursday, 20 Aug. S.H.; cloudy, showers, and cool. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out supplies. Wrote a letter accepting the invitation to address the Clearfield Rotary Club on September 16. Mother and I fixed up five gallons of homemade beer.

Friday, 21 Aug.; cloudy, rainy, and cool. Had a telephone call for some flowers and gathered them in the rain. Later a man in a truck came for them. Had a letter from Mr. Bayard of La ~~Hacienda~~ Hacienda to the effect that they were embarrassed because of the cancellation of advertising contracts, more than \$5,000 in the case of one firm, and therefore he wished to keep the matter of my associate editorship open until the situation cleared up somewhat. Wrote some letters. Mapped out a planting program for the farms, mainly with the object of getting them into grass so as to cut down expenses.

✓
(Wife, 21 Aug., brown folder.)

21 August 1931.

"Dear Nellie:

"Your letter of the 18th was much appreciated because it read like your normal self. Of course, it will be a pleasure to have luncheon with you at the Cosmos Club, and perhaps a picture show afterwards any time you say, without reference to the horrid past or the uncertain future. However, I have speaking dates in Maryland and Pennsylvania booked for the 25th August and the 3d and 16th of September and will want to keep those dates and the days before and after.

"I know your great disinclination to consider business matters, but there is one question in a former letter that you have not answered, and that is whether you would be willing to join me in signing the necessary papers to secure a loan on 1926. I hate to repeat the question but the necessity for a loan becomes clearer as time passes, and the consequences of delay will affect you as well as me. The balance in the Washington bank I set aside for you this year will be exhausted with three more payments. The balance in the Frederick bank will have to go to meet taxes due in September. My thought is that the wisest thing to do is to take out a sufficient loan on 1926 to carry us through the flower season next year. The rains have come with sufficient regularity this year to insure a normal crop next spring. This year the crop and the cash returns were less than half the average for the previous fifteen years, because of the drouth last year.

"I expect to have an abundance of feed in spite of the fact that because of the rain and unseasonable cold last week and this week we have just lost the finest crop of Sudan grass hay ever raised in Maryland. A solid stand higher than a horse's back rotted on the ground. There is every prospect for a fine crop of ~~of~~ corn, but not enough to sell any.

"Today I received a letter ~~fr~~ from the ~~ed~~ publisher of 'La Hacienda' of New York to the effect that the unprecedented cancellations of advertising contracts have come in at such a terrifying rate that the company will have to withdraw its proposal to take me on as an associate editor.

"The foregoing is business, which I know you abhor and wish to ignore--but taxes are as inevitable as death and cannot be avoided.

"What follows is not business. Aside from fiscal matters there are many compensations at Sunny Hill. There is a feeling in the air that summer has ended and autumn is here. The apple trees are bending to the ground with their burden of fruit. Red birds, wrens, thrushes, and shrubbery and piping cheerily to each other from time to time. and saucy blue jays are flitting about in the trees/ Humming birds and butterflies flit from flower to flower. The little mule is fat and pert and very docile and has quite as much^h agreeable individuality, personality and expression as little Sunny Bird. The two little cows are luxuriating in the narcissus field which is overgrown with a lush growth of soybeans higher than their backs and they grunt and sigh with satisfaction when they are brought up from the pasture. However, like humans, they long for something more, in this case green apples. They seem to dream of fallen apples in the orchard and make desperately awkward efforts to get to them. Lewis says if they were allowed to eat all they want they 'would bust wide open.' The new calf, 'Elizabeth Patricia,' or 'Betty,' or 'Pat' for short, is as beautiful and interesting as any fawn. This morning I walked down to the narcissus gap. The Whippoorwill terrace was a picture. The border of ferns died from the drouth of last year. I replaced them with petunias which are now in full bloom. Above the petunias the rock wall is covered with magnificent morning glories. Next is a three-foot strip of delicate day flower, Commelina communis. This is generally regarded as a pestiferous weed, but with

its heavenly blue flower faces each 'with its ain drap o' dew' it is a sight worth coming miles to see. Back of the commelina is Kentucky blue grass and wild flowers and shrubs of various kinds. So, wherever I go the friendly faces of flowers greet me and I know that the fairies are not far away. At night the air is vibrant with the hum and song of myriads of insects, chirping crickets and Katy-dids and Katy-didn'ts. And always there is the vision of Frederick Valley 'Fair as a garden of the Lord.' And seeing it all I sometimes say to myself 'And to think she prefers Wicomico mosquitos to this.'

"Well, buenos noches 6 vaya con dios.

"L.M.E."

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4496

Saturday, 22 Aug.; cloudy, showers, and cool. Ø Took flowers to the hotel, did some shopping, and stopped to cheer up Mr. Castle. Had the lower orchard plowed. Eunice and Charlie out in the afternoon and gave us some good music in the evening.

Sunday, 23 Aug.; cloudy, rainy, gloomy, and cool. Took flowers to the hotel with mother. Had chains put on the tires at a service station so I could get up the slippery grades on the mountain. After returning I took a walk down the cross road as far as the Kinna patch for the first time in several years. The forest trees had grown considerably in that time. Just at lunch time a young man and woman drove up and asked to see the buildings and I showed them around. Charlie busy making a kennel for Laddie. I took a nap in the afternoon and then went over to the Whippoorwill and built a fire. The new chimney smoked badly and will have to be altered. Had some good radio music. Last night and today we had the steam heat on in the main house.

Monday, 24 Aug.; clear and pleasant. Had Lewis hauling out cinders for the driveway. Charlie and Eunice left immediately after breakfast for Washington. After luncheon I took mother and sister to a Will Rogers movie show. After supper mother and I bottled the homemade beer.

Tuesday, 25 Aug.; clear and hot forenoon, rain in the afternoon. Took flowers to hotel. Lewis hauling cinders. Also had him bring out some barrels for cider. At 8 p.m. I took sister with me and drove to the Braddock Grange. The lecturer gave a long drawn out description of a meeting of the State Grange, followed by an intermission and calisthenic exercises. It was after 9 p.m. when I was introduced and gave a talk on Argentina. Then there was more singing, calisthenic exercises, followed by refreshments. It was after 11 p.m. when we got away.

Wednesday, 26 August; unsettled weather. Answered inquiries

(1931, Aug. S.H.)

E--4497

concerning peonies and sent tax bills to the real/estate agents for attention. Did some running about with the truck for mother. The tenant moved out from the lower place. Examined the house after they left and found that some of the paper was gone from the walls. Did some mowing and weed cutting.

Thursday, 27 Aug.; unsettled weather. Took flowers to the hotel and did some shopping. Took sister down to the lower place and planned what should be done to the rooms that had lost their paper. Mowed weeds in the afternoon. After supper we listened to Lowell Thomas and Amos and Andy on the radio. I spent the evening in the Whippoorwill writing notes on Abyssinia. There was a full moon and ~~floating~~ *blucy* clouds at night.

Friday, 28 Aug.; unsettled weather with thunder storm in the afternoon. After breakfast took some visiting children over to the Whippoorwill and played some Bubble Books for them on the phonograph. They stayed for nearly an hour and were loath to leave. Finshed draft of talk on Abyssinia for the Clearfield meeting. Received a short ~~nee~~ note from wife saying she would meet me at the Cosmos Club next Monday at 11 a.m. After luncheon I took mother with me down to Lower Sunny Hill. She promptly slipped and fell near the kitchen door. Fortunately she was not badly hurt. I mowed some weeds in the yard. On leaving I padlocked the two gates. Ordered paper from a mail order house.

Saturday, 29 Aug.; unsettled weather. I got up late and did some writing. In the afternoon drove to town for the laundry and materials for papering the lower house. On returning wrote some letters. Eunice and Charlie out in the afternoon. Sat up late in the Whippoorwill trying to write a story.

Sunday, 30 Aug.; sunshine and showers. Took flowers to the hotel. On the way in picked up a woman and two little children who were walking from Shookstown to Frederick to attend church. Read the Sunday

(1931, Aug. 31 H.)

E--4498

papers. Had a nice luncheon and then a nap. Walked down to the lower place to inspect the field set with seedling locusts. Soy beans and weeds were waist high. The little locusts were about ten inches high and still living. Had the weather been drier I would have had the soybeans cut for hay. The Sudan grass was growing ~~again~~ again with the prospect of a second hay crop. Walked back through the woods. The ferns were beginning to make a show after being nearly exterminated by the drouth. A florist and his family from Martinsburg called to see about peonies. I showed him over the ~~place~~ place and priced the peony roots to him at \$20 a hundred for large divisions. Eunice and Charlie left early so as to reach Washington in time to play over the WOL radio station.

Monday, 31 Aug.; clear and pleasant. In the early morning with mother I drove to Washington and left her with Eunice. I went to the Cosmos Club and read the papers. At 11 a.m. I went into the ladies parlor and found wife waiting for me. I was struck by her appearance. She was dressed in a yellow gown and looked thin, wrinkled, and ten years older than when I last met her, and there was a certain transparent quality about her face I did not like. I proposed that we go to a picture show and she consented. Together we walked to the Fox Theater and sat through a very unsatisfactory entertainment. At 2 p.m. we agreed that we had seen enough and left. I took her to the coffeeshop under the Washington Hotel and we had a nice luncheon. She talked about everything except herself and family matters. At my suggestion we walked up to Lafayette Square and sat awhile in the park. She volunteered the statement that she would be willing to join me in signing the papers for a loan on the town house to relieve present financial embarrassment and said she had been invited to spend a week at the Weavers' at Rapidan but would not go until the loan was negotiated. I asked

(1931, Sept. S.H.)

E--4499

about Thelma and Otis and she said they were getting along all right. I asked if she had been ill and she said no. I said I would like to take her out to Sunny Hill for awhile and she said it was a beautiful day. I parted from her at the corner of the park. She was silent and I had the feeling that she had suffered greatly. I wished I might take her in my arms, but she was distant. I had tried to explain to her that not much was left of the rent money after the taxes, insurance, and upkeep on the town house was paid. She had flared up and said "You had no business to rent the house for less than one hundred dollars a month." I answered "Perhaps so, but the place might have stood idle for many months." This showed that the fires of resentment were still burning in her breast.

I went to Eunice's apartment for mother and her purchases and we reached Sunny Hill after 6 oclock. After supper I went over to the Whippoorwill to write checks for the monthly bills, a short letter to wife, and a letter to the real/estate agents asking them to go ahead and arrange for the loan.

(Wife, 31 Aug., brown folder)

about Thelma and Gilda and she said they were resting along with her. I asked if she had been ill and she said no. I said I would like to take her out to Sunny Hill for awhile and she said it was a beautiful day. I pointed from her at the corner of the park. She was silent and I had the feeling that she had suffered greatly. I wished I might take her in my arms, but she was distant. I had tried to explain to her that not much was left of the rent money after the taxes, insurance, and upkeep on the town house was paid. She had flared up and said "You had no business to rent the house for less than one hundred dollars a month." I answered "Perhaps so, but the place might have stood idle for many months." This showed that the times of resentment were still running in her breast.

I went to Thelma's apartment for mother and her purchases and we reached Sunny Hill after 6 o'clock. After supper I went over to the Whippoorwill to write checks for the monthly bills, a short letter to Alice, and a letter to the real estate agents asking them to go ahead and arrange for the loan.

(Alice, 22 Aug. 1922, from folder)

31 August 1931.

"Dear Nellie:

"Thank you for meeting me today and also for your willingness to join me in obtaining a loan on 1926 that seems unnecessary and that I hope will put Sunny Hill on a selfsustaining basis.

"I hope I succeeded in observing your wish not to refer either to the past or the future that lies before us. It was a pleasure simply to have you with me, but in the circumstances somewhat of a trial. I cannot tell you how I longed to hold you in my arms and kiss you, nor can I tell you of the things I read in your face that saddened me. This whole business of our relations is a tragedy, but you will recall that when you first announced your decision to leave me I acquiesced and said you were to be absolutely free and I would not say one word to dissuade you. I sincerely hope that you have been and are happy.

"The matter of your monthly check was overlooked today because I forgot that it was the 31st and did not bring my check book with me. I inclose another for \$35. The amount can be increased as soon as the loan is fixed up so that I can see my way clear to carry on through another flower season.

"I am writing the real estate company tonight and as soon as they advise me when the papers are ready I will notify you and we can meet in their office on K Street.

"And now, my dear, take care of yourself, and may all the good little fairies look after you for me.

"L.M.E."

(1931, Sept. S.H.)

E--4500

Tuesday, 1 Sept.; clear and warm. Took flowers to the hotel and brought out materials for papering the lower house where sister and Elizabeth were preparing the walls. I spent about an ~~hour~~^{hr} mowing weeds inside the garden fence. In the afternoon I had a long nap and wrote letters. I had placed an advertisement in the local paper for a dog and had a number of telephone calls in response. The evening was beautiful and the insects were chanting their nightly song.

(Wife, 1 Sept.,[✓] brown folder)

be sold all at once.

"My dear, I thought of bringing you some flowers yesterday, but did not for fear they would be a nuisance to carry around. We have lots of them and always will have so long as I am around. For the first time in several years the rains have made Sunny Hill look normal--luxuriant growth of vegetation, flowers and fruit--nothing quite like it anywhere else.

"Well, perhaps you are no longer interested. Bueno.

"Lee."

be said all at once.

"My dear, I thought of writing you some letters yesterday, but did not get time. They would be a nuisance to bring around, but have lots of them and I hope will have as long as I am around. The first time in several years the rain has made things will look natural-looking again in vegetation, flowers and little things like it everywhere else.

"Well, perhaps you are no longer interested. Goodbye."

"Dear,"